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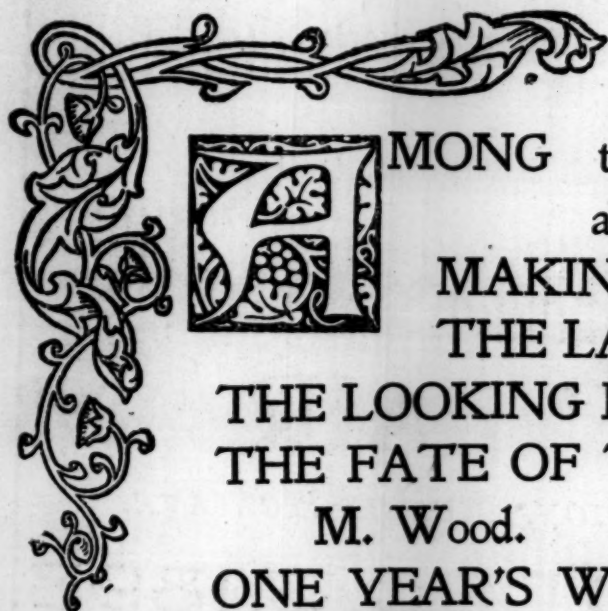
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THE CLUB WOMAN

VOL. III.

BOSTON, MASS., OCTOBER, 1898.

No. 1.



AMONG the prominent features of this number
are: * * * * *

MAKING BOOKS WORK, Clara S. Carter.

THE LARGEST CLUB, A. R. E. Nesbit.

THE LOOKING FORWARD CLUB, Florence Stowell.

THE FATE OF THE FUNNY PAPER. Story. Alice
M. Wood.

ONE YEAR'S WORK IN SOCIOLOGY, Margaret C.
McGiffert.

ETHICS OF THE NEW WOMAN'S SOCIAL AND DOMESTIC
LIFE, Mary Hime Baker.

POEMS by Sara A. Palmer, Annie G. Murray and Helen M. Winslow.

"THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER," with articles by Cecilia Gaines and
M. W. Hopper.

UNIVERSITY EXTENSION AND CLUB STUDY DEPART-
MENTS, and Notes of Club and Federation News.



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THE CLUB WOMAN

A Monthly Journal Devoted to the Interests of Women's Clubs.

VOLUME III.

BOSTON, MASS., OCTOBER, 1898.

NUMBER 1

HELEN M. WINSLOW - - - Editor.

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Clubs are trumps again.

In our clubs we find comradeship and true sisterhood.

Bring your best thoughts and most willing service to the club; and do it now.

The self-conscious woman, with the quarrelsome woman, is being eliminated by club contact.

Remember that in club-life as in St. Paul's epistle, "The greatest of these is charity," and open the club year with the firm resolve to practice that charity which he interprets to mean love for all humanity.

The success of our club study department, under the wise guidance of Mrs. May Alden Ward, first vice-president of the Massachusetts Federation is most gratifying. The outline of study on Spain and Spanish history which appears in this number, is given in response to dozens of requests from all parts of the country for a course on Spain.

Just at this time the following conundrum on the "Stars and Stripes" which we think has not been published, is timely and worthy the attention of all the patriotic societies: Why are the emblems of the United States more enduring than those of France, England, Ireland and Scotland?

The Lilies will droop and their leaves decay,
The Rose from its stem will sever,
The Shamrock and Thistle will fade away,
But the Stars will shine forever.

Beyond question the best "club poem" ever written is that by Miss Sara A. Palmer and published in this number, entitled "What is a Woman's Club?" In view of the fact that extracts from this poem have been going the rounds of the papers for four years, the reprinting of the entire poem is interesting at this time, besides being of value as preserving the stanzas. They were originally written by Miss Palmer, who is a prominent member of the Professional Woman's League of New York city, for a meeting of the Woman's Press Association in Boston, December 19, 1894, and read by her there. The poem was printed the following Saturday in the Boston Transcript's club department, from which it has been widely copied. As read by Miss Palmer on that occasion there were six additional lines which are, of course, purely local in character, viz:

"This is the Woman's Club; and here today
The Press of old New England strong and leal
Lift up their beacon, an unfaltering ray
With pens dipped, not in gall, but love and zeal.
Women in union bound for weal, not woe;
Making the wintry world with glory glow."

"THE MELLOWING OF OCCASION."

ONE year ago on the first day of October The Club Woman made its first appearance. There was no previous advertising, no hint that such a publication was even dreamed of by any beyond a dozen choice spirits. It made its advent suddenly and unexpectedly, like the first falling leaf of autumn. Through the mail a "silent, white-winged messenger," it went to several thousand club women who instantly recognized in it a journal exactly fitted to their needs. It made friends immediately and everywhere. By the next mail, subscriptions came back with letters of congratulation and "God-speed." Federation presidents, club presidents, college presidents and the club woman pure and simple joined in a chorus of welcome. Before it was a week old there was no room for doubt that The Club Woman had made a hit.

It is no slight task or light responsibility to start a paper in these days when the country is flooded with periodicals of every possible kind. Especially if the projectors do not have a fortune behind them and do not consult their proposed public beforehand. "I hope you have a good big bank account behind it," was a frequent remark in those first days, "for you are sure to lose money the first year or two." No; but we had something better. The sure knowledge of a field white for the harvest. "Club women won't support a paper," was another of the Chronic Objector's points. "It's been tried and failed. They won't support you." To which we replied with acquiescent smiles and inner consciousness that club women were quite ready to support a periodical designed especially to meet their needs, provided the projectors had common sense enough to grasp the situation in its entirety and know a Need when they saw it. And so we smiled and prayed for that special variety of common sense.

The result has justified the undertaking already. In a year of the greatest financial strain of recent times The Club Woman has not only paid all her expenses,—meanwhile maintaining a dainty appearance and the high standard she had set for herself—but like a thrifty woman of business has provided her own bank account and a subscription list to make any publisher proud with which to start on her second year. And experienced business men are congratulating her today, as well as club women in every part of this great country. And the business men say "Phenomenal!"

Today The Club Woman goes regularly to every State and Territory, to the Canadian provinces, to Paris, to England—even to far-off India. It is making hosts of club women know each other, and voicing the opinions and experience of kindred spirits in clubwork all over the land. It is literally bringing club women of the East, South, West and North together and giving them a common medium of communication which they are seizing upon with an avidity which shows how great was the need of such an organ. And we take this public way of thanking our hosts of friends, everywhere, for their substantial support; for no paper, not even the best that could be devised, can live without a public, contributors and subscriptions.

Today it is with a more sanguine spirit than ever that The Club Woman is started upon the second year. We have tried the club women of this country and have not found them wanting in generosity, in interest and in cordial good-will. We have proved that the club movement in America needs an "organ"; and that the club members are more than willing to support one, provided it is published in their interests, with

their needs in view and their aims as a mission. Consequently the future looks easy. We have all the prominent club women in the United States on our side. Grasping, indeed, would she be who wanted more.

Which is one reason why we have enlarged The Club Woman several pages, as will be noticed in this number. The pressure on our space has been so great for months past that whole pages of valuable news have been crowded out at the last moment. With two new departments, then, it becomes necessary to enlarge our borders and to broaden our phylacteries. "The President's Corner," which appears in this number, will be a permanent feature, since letters from nearly every State president hail it with delight.

It was Mrs. L. D. Temple, the Vermont president, who suggested the idea. Then all the other presidents of Federations were written to, and in nearly every case the answer came back, "That will be a most valuable feature of your already invaluable paper"; or "I am greatly anticipating this new department, and shall want to say something in it a little later." For it is primarily designed for the State presidents to confer with each other relative to the resolutions offered at the Denver Biennial, and other matters of interest to the General and the State Federations.

New Jersey leads off, with Wisconsin at her heels. Perhaps some of our readers will consider Miss Gaines' views decidedly radical, and perhaps she would be the last to deny the charge, but the lists are open, and the most conservative have here an opportunity to take up their cudgels (with a steel point) for their side. State chairmen will not be refused entrance should they wish to reply. It is well to have the subject of Miss Gaines' article thoroughly discussed and fully understood before the next Biennial, where it is sure to be one of the issues.

Every article will be signed by the writer's correct name. Nomes de plume are all right in their place, but that place will not be in "The President's Corner." Honest convictions should be backed up by a name to carry weight there, and thus the editor is not responsible for the utterances found in it. We personally may or may not believe in the State president being the medium between the clubs and the General Federation; but both sides will have full and equal chance at discussion, just as a club president must allow free discussion of both sides of every question she puts before the house.

The department of University Extension, too, is warmly welcomed by the fast increasing numbers of club women who are looking into that subject, and by the country clubs which have not access to literature on that topic. This will not conflict with Mrs. Ward's Club Study department, which has proved such a popular feature that it will be continued along the same lines as last year; and in addition to Mrs. Osgood's "Open Parliament" we are promised a series of valuable papers on parliamentary usages by a prominent Colorado woman. In short we purpose to make this periodical indispensable to every good club woman alive.

And above all, we shall try to preserve that spirit of charity for all and malice towards none, without which no periodical can maintain a dignified and influential position. There cannot be too much of the spirit of love among the woman's clubs of this country.

WHAT IS A WOMAN'S CLUB?

By Sara A. Palmer, New York City.

"WHAT is a Woman's Club?" No idle place
Wherein to chatter of the last new play,
Or whisper of a sister gone astray,
Or strip with cruel gossip every trace
Of sweetness from some life borne down with strife.
'Tis not a place where fashion reigns supreme,
Where lack of style is sin beyond redeem,
Where outward garb is more than inward life;
No room is there for careless jest or sneer,
For delving into dark days safely past
Or meaning glances with dire purpose cast,
To cause some trembling soul to blush or fear.
All these are what a woman's club is not—
Things left behind, outgrown, despised, forgot.

What is a Woman's Club? A meeting ground
For those of purpose great and broad and strong,
Whose aim is toward the stars, who ever long
To make the patient, listening world resound
With sweeter music, purer, nobler tones.
A place where kindly, helpful words are said
And kindlier deeds are done; where hearts are fed;
Where wealth of brain for poverty atones,
And hand grasps hand and soul finds touch with soul.
Where victors in the race for fame and power
Look backward even in their triumph hour,
To beckon others towards the shining goal.
This is a Woman's Club, a haven fair,
Where toilers drop an hour their load of care.

What is a Woman's Club? The fabric of a dream
Touched with an altar coal and made alive,
Instinct with hope for those who toil and strive
And wait to catch that joyous day's first gleam
That ushers in a better, freer age,
When right for one shall be for all the right;
When all together in life's moil and fight,
The war for right and truth shall bravely wage.

This is woman's century, consequently it is the day of women's clubs. Has society suffered on account of them? Has the home been neglected? No. The woman who is progressive enough to join a club is the very woman who does, conscientiously, whatever her hands find to do. She is the cornerstone of good society, and she attends to her home duties better for having come in contact with her fellow women at the club. How light the household burdens seem upon her return. She comes in fresh and enthusiastic, with a new light in her eyes. "They actually listened, to-day, to what I said, as if it were of great importance," she whispers softly to baby. It is said that, a few years ago, the women of the South were astonished to learn that the women of the North could do their week's washing in the morning, and in the afternoon discuss the popular questions of the day in an interesting and scholarly manner. I sometimes wonder if many a "John" would not be as greatly astonished at hearing his little "Mary" discoursing eloquently upon some interesting topic at the club to which she belongs. Long live women's clubs! They are doing much to broaden and deepen women's thought and action.—Minerva R. Bond, Oregon, Mo.

ONE YEAR'S WORK IN SOCIOLOGY.

By Margaret C. McGiffert, Duluth, Minn.

IN estimating the value and fitness of any particular course of study, both the goal and the starting point must be taken into consideration. An account of the work done in Sociology by the Ladies' Literature Class of Duluth would be of little interest without a preliminary explanation of the reasons for selecting that subject, and for choosing the special books included in the course of study.

In the spring of 1896 the class reached a point where it was necessary to make a fresh start. During the thirteen years of its existence the study of English and American literature had been brought down to living writers. The question then arose, as it frequently must arise, whether it was better to make a thorough study of those masterpieces of literature which have been the inspiration of what is best in modern thought, or to take up some subject of special present-day interest. Upon discussion of the matter it became evident that the modern subject made the stronger appeal to the class. That being decided, there could be no doubt that in these days when writers and thinkers of every kind and degree are concentrating their attention on social conditions and social questions, Sociology would be the most profitable subject for study. The very abundance of materials, however, together with the extreme modernness of the science, and the absence of acknowledged authorities, made the task of planning a course of study a most perplexing one. The task was simplified, to some extent, by the fact that even an ideally perfect plan, if such were possible, would be less likely to prove helpful to the class than one that connected itself with the work already done. Spencer's "Principles of Psychology" and "Data of Ethics" had been included in the study of great English writers; consequently it was almost a foregone conclusion that Spencer's Sociology should have a place in the sociological course. That was the more to be taken for granted because of the importance of Mr. Spencer's contributions to the science. To the special student, the immense array of facts in regard to primitive man, brought together by Mr. Spencer in the "Data of Sociology" is the most valuable part of the entire work, but for those wishing to gain a general knowledge of sociological theories, it seemed sufficient to study conclusions drawn by Mr. Spencer in the "Inductions of Sociology," which was therefore given the first place in the course.

Mr. John Fiske, known to students as the "American exponent of the Spencerian philosophy," before he became more widely known as an authority in American history, devoted four chapters in his "Outlines of Cosmic Philosophy" to the evolution of society, explaining and exemplifying the principles set forth by Mr. Spencer. Those chapters were, almost as a matter of course, placed next to Spencer's "Inductions" in the plan for the year's work.

The first part of the course having arranged itself by a sort of natural selection, it became necessary to make a choice among the confusing number and variety of books bearing upon the subject—a choice rendered difficult by the lack of agreement in fundamental principles. At the advice of Professor Zeublin of the University of Chicago, Mackenzie's "Introduction to Social Philosophy" was given the next place in the course; and Gilman's "Socialism and the American Spirit" was then chosen as the book that seemed most satisfactorily to supplement the other three. The plan for a broad general survey of the subject was finally completed, with Spencer and Fiske representing the scientific, Mackenzie the metaphysical, and Gilman the practical point of view.

The work was considered by everyone more or less of an experiment, and was not expected to be easy; but the year began with a full membership, and the interest felt was more than sufficient to carry the class over the difficult points. Criticism was not lacking from anxious friends, who felt that we were attempting too much in entering upon a complicated subject without an experienced leader. The members of the class certainly did not fail to appreciate the difficulties of the subject, but it is safe to say that enough good was gained to reward them abundantly for their work.

A brief summary of the impressions received may be of interest. From Spencer's *Inductions* we gained a more definite sense of the solidarity of humanity. His carefully worked out analysis of the interdependence of all human activities and relationships was simply a statement, rendered in detail and in scientific phraseology, of the old truth that "we are all members of one body," and that "if one member suffer, all the members must suffer with it." No more convincing argument for the responsibility of the individual to society can anywhere be found than in Mr. Spencer's elaborate comparison of the social organism with an animal body, in spite of the fact that no reference is made to one of the most familiar characteristics of the animal body—its liability of disease—and the corresponding liability of the social organism to disease, as represented by pauperism, vice and crime. The interdependence of "all sorts and conditions of men" is even more strongly realized when we remember that unchecked social evil has the same tendency to affect the entire body politic that unchecked bodily disease has to involve the entire physical organism.

The principle of solidarity, laid down by Mr. Spencer, is confirmed and illustrated in detail by Mr. Fiske, who finds that after a certain point has been reached, progress in civilization depends upon the increase in mutual helpfulness, and that such helpfulness not only gives the community in which it is present an incalculable advantage over the community in which it is deficient, but also conduces to the fullest development of the individual. This truth, which seems like a mere truism when baldly stated, becomes a vivifying principle when applied to historical investigation. Mr. Fiske's generalizations and illustrations are of absorbing interest in the new light they throw upon the meaning of history. It is an incidental interest of these chapters that in them we seem to see Mr. Fiske in process of changing his secondary position as a "middleman" in philosophy for his present position as an authority in history. Whether or not the work done at that time in applying the principles of evolution to history made Mr. Fiske a historian, it is certain that these chapters will make many of his readers students of history.

It may perhaps be said without fear of contradiction that interesting and enlightening as were the studies in Spencer and Fiske the heart of the subject was not reached till we took up the study of Mackenzie's "Introduction to Social Philosophy." Paradoxical as the statement may seem, the study of Sociology by the scientific method proved to be in the main a matter of speculative, rather than of practical interest, while the metaphysical investigation of the same subject left us face to face with all the important social problems of today. Professor Mackenzie begins with the proposition that society is essentially metaphysical. That is, men are related to each other, not as animals, but as thinking beings. Man as a thinking being has undoubtedly a material basis, but that basis exists, not for its own sake, but for the sake of the higher nature which it subserves. While then the relation of men to each other is complicated by their relation to the material world, the truth must not be lost sight of that man's essential nature is his spiritual nature. But because man as a thinking being is rooted in

the material world, the study of man must include the study of his material conditions. Inquiring into the nature and object of society, its ultimate end is found to be that higher development of the individual which is possible only through the establishment of right relations with other individuals. For not only is the realization of any one individual's life impossible without the co-operation of others, but by our very nature, the realization of other lives is the essential element in the realization of our own.

The question then arises, How can the present condition of society, in which men thwart each other's development and warp each other's nature, be so modified as to insure that co-operation which is the essential condition of the higher life? The various conditions of social difficulty are examined in detail; and may be summed up in the statement that in the necessary process of learning to subjugate nature man has fallen under the yoke of material things. Absorption in material interests has dulled his perception of higher interests, and his sense of responsibility toward other men. With a more complete subjugation of nature will come a conviction of the unsatisfactoriness of material things, and new desire to extend to the many the opportunities open to the few. This tendency is seen in the growing interest of the more fortunate classes in the "other half," and in the steadily increasing sense of social responsibility. The new ideal is not socialistic, but organic, because it is a spontaneous growth in mutual helpfulness, rather than a plan for the re-arrangement of society on a mechanical basis; and its hope is in the spiritual nature of man, which will not rest till every human being has the opportunity to become, not an animal, however well fed and clothed and housed, but, in the highest sense of the phrase, "a living soul."

Mr. Gilman's book on "Socialism and the American Spirit," though characterized by a somewhat superficial optimism, contains many valuable suggestions, and is especially interesting in its account of the various organizations that have been formed in America for improving social and industrial conditions. Mr. Gilman's hope for improvement is in the Profit Sharing system, which has hitherto been given only a partial trial in America, though it has been very successful in France.

At the end of the year we were ready to enter with an interest never felt before upon any one of half a dozen lines of study. We could, for instance, have had no better basis for the study of history—especially the history of social, intellectual, or religious development. The general subject of sociology continued to invite us, as well as the study of specific sociological problems. It was finally decided to concentrate our attention for the coming year upon one department of sociology—that of economics.

Our gain has been, not so much in anything we have learned, as in an increasing interest in everything that relates to the well being of our fellowmen, in a keener sense of our responsibility toward them, and in a deeper conviction that financial, industrial and social problems are difficult and complicated affairs, not to be settled off-hand by hasty generalizations or by platform eloquence, but to be studied with infinite painstaking by the best minds in the business, professional and political world, and to be settled only by the most careful and conscientious experiment. Most of all we have learned, not by precept but by implication, that social reform begins at home; that the most important centre of influence is to be found in the immediate relations existing between the individual and the other members of the family, the servant, the dressmaker, the grocer, the neighbor, the friend, the community. Having properly adjusted our own social relations, we shall then see more clearly to help others with theirs.

AUTUMN IN THE COUNTRY.

By Helen M. Winslow.

UP in the country, how does it look?
 Bare trees bending over a brook;
 Masses of gray cloud piled up together;
 Farmers out ploughing in all the fine weather;
 Bareheaded children shouting at play—
 Up in the country today.

Up in the country the long sunset lingers,
 Tracing the sky with roseate fingers;
 Autumn is painting with russet and brown
 Meadow and mountain and hill-top and town,
 And washing with rain the summer away,
 Up in the country today.

Night-winds are moaning, day-winds are whirling,
 Keeping the grasses and dead leaves a-swirling;
 Translucent sunbeams are gilding the hills;
 Freshet and shower are swelling the rills;
 Winter is coming in just the old way,
 Up in the country today.

THE FATE OF THE FUNNY PAPER.

By Alice M. Wood.

"IF you take my advice you won't read it," said Mr. Brown, pushing back his chair from the breakfast table.

"But I can't see why a woman's club shouldn't have a funny paper once in a while. You men are always having something humorous at your meetings." This was but one of the many discussions that Mrs. Brown had had with her husband on this subject, and now her every word showed that she was determined to attempt the experiment.

"A very different thing, my dear, as you will find. I'm willing to make any admission you wish concerning the intellectual equality of the two sexes,"—and Mr. Brown smiled the smile of a man who has no narrow prejudices. "I will go even further and admit your claim to the possession of logical ability, but there isn't one woman in a thousand with any sense of humor, and you know it."

"But the papers are always flinging out at giggling women," persisted Mrs. Brown, fingering the edges of a well-thumbed manuscript which she had brought to the table, as if the very sight of it ought to convince her husband.

"Oh, yes," said Mr. Brown with a judicial air, "girls laugh at anything, just as kittens play, with no more sense of humor involved in the one case than in the other. Mere youth, health, and high spirits."

"I'm sure there have been humorous writers among our sex," urged Mrs. Brown plaintively.

"Mere exceptions that prove the rule," he replied. "But you've not told me the outcome of your Holmes day last week."

The face before him rippled with smiles as the lady answered: "That was peculiar, to say the least. Out of sixty members of our club, only two brought in a humorous selection as her quotation. You wouldn't suppose Holmes had written fifty-eight dull lines, but he did, for those fifty-eight women found them."

"Just as I thought," laughed the gentleman. Then subduing his mischievous face to an expression of perfect decorum he said: "Let me give you an instance of the kind of paper your club would declare grand and ennobling: 'On the dim horizon's verge glisten the sails of many a bright winged hope; Destiny scatters the seeds of promise, while afar flash the rainbow tints—' Here, let me alone," he spluttered, for she had run around the table and was vehemently choking him.

"You wretched boy," she cried between her laughs, "I won't let you vilify us in that manner!"

But he continued: "Then all the women exclaim: 'Wasn't dear Mrs. Cult's paper just too sweet for anything! So uplifting and exalted!' and not one of them can remember a word of it afterwards."

"But you'll admit that the paper is really funny?" she asked anxiously, as she helped him on with his overcoat.

"Certainly," he replied with gratifying promptness. "If you were to read that before an audience of men, they would enjoy it as much as I did the other evening. But I wish you'd promise me one thing: leave out the gestures."

"The very ideal!" she cried, "and spoil all my funny stories? No, indeed; I shall lay my paper down and give those stories properly, no matter what happens."

"Did anyone in your club ever make use of gestures while reading a paper?" and he regarded her with a convincing air.

"No," she admitted, "but, then, no one ever before has had a humorous paper. I shouldn't think of doing anything so out of the common if it were a regular club day, but it's President's Day, and I thought it would be all right."

"Well," he said as he put on his hat, "of course, you'll do as you think best; you strong-minded club women always do," and he pinched her ear, "but if you take my advice, little woman, you'll go to the encyclopaedia and copy something solid."

Mrs. Brown had been reading about five minutes, and had passed an occasional mild joke, at which one or two women had looked up doubtfully, and seeing the speaker's face composed had returned with a relieved air to their fancy work. "I'll try smiling next time," thought the speaker rapidly, "then they may realize it's a joke." So she smiled, but beyond an inquiring glance or two, no interest was excited.

It was with considerable inward trepidation that Mrs. Brown approached her first anecdote, something in her own experience that struck her at the time as deliciously funny. Laying her paper down, she started in with a free, bold gesture, illustrative of the subject in hand. At this the audience exhibited some surprise. Several members glanced at one another, puzzled and undecided. One or two smiled faintly at the innovation, but the general expression was one of mild disapproval. A feeling of depression which had been gradually stealing over Mrs. Brown suddenly became very pronounced. True, Mrs. Smith, who had recited "My aunt, my dear unmarried aunt," on Holmes Day, sat there with eyes dancing with merriment, but what was one among so many? Involuntarily there came to Mrs. Brown's inner consciousness the recollection of a remark made by a colored clergyman at a meeting of white brethren, that he felt like a huckleberry in a bowl of milk. She had felt sure of Mrs. Smith's sympathy, and,—here she shut her teeth resolutely,—she would excite some show of interest in the others or perish in the attempt.

At the end of the second row sat two women who had not raised their eyes from their work since she began. They fascinated her attention. She would take them for her point of attack, and compel their interest. But no success followed; either they were not listening, or they thought the whole subject beneath their attention.

Turning her thoughts towards a grave, dignified woman near the back of the room, Mrs. Brown made a frantic attempt to bring a smile to those cold but strictly attentive eyes, which never once relaxed their look of stony disapproval. Mrs. Loomis was a woman of high ideals. She looked to women's clubs to become the spiritual regenerator of the nation. Why sully this Grand, Lofty Mission with trivial banalities?

By stages Mrs. Brown became anxious, then nervous, then discouraged, then hysterical. She flushed and trembled; it was only by the exercise of the sternest self-restraint that she could keep from bursting into tears. Would this terrible paper never come to an end, so she could drop into her chair and quit making a fool of herself? If she could only scream, or faint. "I will live through it! I will! I will!" she said to herself.

After club was adjourned Mrs. Clark approached the chair where Mrs. Brown had dropped to wait until the room should be clear and she could make her mortified exit unobserved. Mrs. Brown's spirits rose a trifle as she observed the approach, for Mrs. Clark was one who always had a word of help and cheer for the beginner and the down-hearted. Today she took Mrs. Brown's hand and said: "The audience was cold, very cold; I was so sorry for you," and turned sadly away.

"What did you think of Mrs. Brown's paper?" queried Mrs. Nellis in an uncertain tone of a group of women who stood chatting on the sidewalk before dispersing. For a moment no one answered, and the speaker resumed: "Queer thing, wasn't it?"

"Decidedly inappropriate, I call it," said Miss Magee, severely.

"I couldn't seem to make out what she was driving at," said Mrs. Flanders in a worried tone. "It seemed all the time as if some one was making fun of me."

"No, I don't think she meant that," said Mrs. Hays judicially. "I think she means all right, but she always had a silly way with her."

"The worst of these would-be funny people is that they never realize how ridiculous they appear to others," said Miss Magee, who cared for nothing except Art, which she always spelled with a capital.

"I really pitied Mrs. Brown this afternoon," and little Mrs. Ferris' sweet face had a troubled look. "It is so hard to do good work when you feel that your audience is not in sympathy with you."

"I'm so glad she isn't an officer," said Mrs. Evans fervently, "and we must be careful never to send her as a delegate anywhere. I dare say she means well enough," liberally, "but you never can tell what indiscreet things such a person will do next. Sometimes they absolutely seem to have no sense of propriety."

We stretch forth hands from sea to sea and in spirit grasp the invisible bond of charity that unites us. We are bound together by the altruistic spirit second only to the creeds of the churches. Can we afford, for our own sakes, to forget it?

Let us then start the new club year with the hope of helping others, of bringing the spirit of love and peace into club-life, wherever it is found.

And "To stand all undismayed where'er sorrow or want or sin call for a woman's aid."

Send 75 cents for The Woman's Manual.

ETHICS OF THE NEW WOMAN'S SOCIAL AND DOMESTIC LIFE.

By Mary Hime Baker, Webster Groves, Mo.

IT is said that only a quarter of a century ago Thomas Wentworth Higginson wittily discussed the question: "Ought women to learn the alphabet?" Today the answer is given by 50,000 college women.

Remember that only 100 years ago Mary Wollstonecraft published her "Vindication of the Rights of Woman," and that 50 years ago when the first convention of Woman's Rights was called, woman had no place on any department of life other than in the household, the factory or school, and now the close of the nineteenth century finds all but forty-nine colleges in the United States open to her, also all trades and professions, the only limitation being her qualifications for the same.

The present unrest in social and domestic life is by some attributed to the higher education of woman, alleging that in the "good old times," when homes were domestic factories, our grandmothers were more contented than their cultured grand-daughters of today. "Why? Because," says Helen Starrett, "they could see the fruits of their labor." Invention and civilization have taken the trades from the home and thousands of women are left unemployed. Labor is life and happiness for woman as for man. Now since parents train their daughters as well as their sons for some special life work, women become producers as well as consumers, and the so-called prejudice against women wage-earners is being removed, for is not the fault found because it is often poor work and not because it is woman's? And further, some years ago a thoughtful foreigner declared "that when American mothers no longer teach their daughters to live only for love they will be worth loving and not so trying to live with," and as marriage should no more be the object of a woman's life than of a man's, so exit the mere society girl.

Is it not acknowledged that woman establishes the moral standard for the world? The new woman now refuses to condone in man what she condemns in woman and demands honor and freedom from sensuality in him; thus through self-support is not the first step taken in abolishing the Social Evil? Did not even the old Greeks hold—"Virtue in men and women is the same"? What of the teaching of Les Misérables, Adam Bede and of Christ on this subject?

Again the new woman decides that the woman ought not to be sacrificed to the mother. Even Darwin and Huxley classify her as a weaker man, an affectionate and docile animal, whose chief use is the perpetuation of the race. Is such not also the purpose of man? The true woman ever glorifies motherhood but condemns heedless maternity. She believes in the right of children to be well born. She studies the laws of health and heredity, and sees as results in the coming years the ideal marriage, ideal parentage, ideal home and ideal nation.

Of late the new woman (and man as well) shows a growing discontent with present methods in school and state, in continual effort at reforming by missions and philanthropies instead of right-forming in school and home.

As is generally known, the Women's Federated Clubs of Missouri last year sent two petitions to the State Legislature, the first asking that women be represented on the State Board of Charities; this became a law, and among the first results it is hoped to found a state institution for feeble-minded children who, to our shame, are now assigned to insane asylums. The second petition, that women form part of our school boards, was laid aside in the Senate; when it passes it is proposed to remedy the present waste in childhood's best years, first by employment

of higher teaching ability, second by extension of school age with compulsory attendance (thus doing away with child labor), third to found free kindergartens (with which only St. Louis and Kansas City are now provided), fourth to introduce manual training, sewing and cooking in public schools, or, as Prof. Woodward says, to "put the whole child to school," and lastly character building, thus freeing the state of much pauperism and crime. For is not the saying largely true that "Who opens a school closes a prison door," and that, "To cure is the voice of the Past, to prevent is the divine whisper of Today"?

Sheridan in the Critic asked: "What has a woman to do with politics?" But who shall decide this or any other question of duty for the new woman? She asks: "Is freedom of conscience confined to one-half of humanity?" It is argued that when woman has the ballot chivalry will pass away and that her moral tone will be lowered. No such objection is made to deter good men from voting; they are rather urged to do so to leaven the corrupt political mass. And further, will the mere depositing of a vote under the Australian system cause women to abandon their homes? By voting do farmers leave their farms, mechanics their shops or professors their colleges to become politicians?

In the long list of new women from Mary at the tomb to our world-beloved Frances Willard, she has ever been the zealous apostle of the world's reforms, teaching not how to die a holy death but how to live a holy and whole life. Is she not developing business methods? And is not the old exhortation to earnest but fanatical women to supply themselves with common sense, less and less needed? And another asks: "Is not our nation fast outgrowing the sarcasm of the Frenchman, who said: 'In America there are but two amusements—politics for the men, religion for the women'?"

For 25 years literary and artistic clubs have provided women with needed education and recreation. Those for health, civics and village improvement have been added, "whose works do follow them." Next a Congress of Mothers was lately held in Washington, for awakening interest in motherhood; for with mother love does mother wisdom necessarily come. Twenty years ago Herbert Spencer asked: "Is the unfolding of a human being so simple a process that any one may regulate it without any preparation?" In a recent number of the Cosmopolitan John Brisben Walker reminds us that men pass through the university without hearing mentioned the two most important events in their lives: their citizenship and their marriage; and also that every trade and profession except home-making and motherhood have years of training. That these do not come by instinct, the over and under fed, stimulant-loving, nerve-worn population of both our upper and lower classes testify.

And now, last and most important of all, the Household Economic Association calls the new woman's attention to the science of home and aims to reduce to known laws her domestic work. As one bright member remarked: "Woman started out to solve the problem of the universe in Egyptology, prehistoric man and Greek ethics, but has at last begun to solve the most difficult of all arts: the everyday art of living."

Josiah Allen's wife thus disposes of it: "No matter how much Romance and Sentiment may scoff at the idee, good housekeeping and vittles play a most important part in the home of married bliss. Sometimes I think it plays the highest bugle in the orkestry."

Professor Lucy Salmon of Vassar College claims that the omnipresent domestic service question is a part of the capital and labor problem and as such demands economic consideration from men and women. That the largest part of the world's wealth is consumed in household expenditures and that neither producer nor consumer know on what principles. This can

best be done, she claims, in a great professional school amply equipped and open only to college graduates. Chicago, Nebraska, Iowa Universities, with others to follow, have already these Household Economic Schools in which everything pertaining to a complete home is taught—plans and construction of convenient and sanitary houses, with their ventilation, heating and decoration; then the chemistry, nutritive value and scientific preparation of foods.

Second.—Professor Salmon urges the forming of Specialization Bureaus throughout the country, which will supply on demand, by the day or hour, competent service in cooking, cleaning, baking, laundering, etc., and thus either reduce or remove from our homes that extraneous element—the European servant. In this "good time coming" it is prophesied that the wringer and washing machine will keep the spinning wheel company in either attic or parlor—that the new woman will no longer be an irritable, overworked upper servant, but the loving companion of husband and growing sons and daughters, and that home will be a resting place instead of a training school for foreigners."

Australia (the leader in so many innovations) has adopted the following plan: The word "servant" is dropped and "household employe" is substituted. Two relays of these exchange, one working from five to two o'clock, the other from two to a late evening hour. To the employer the cost is no greater, comfort and efficiency are much increased. The employe gains in independence, since she can live her own life, her own way, with her own people for part of each day, and therefore a higher class of intelligence enters the field, as they are held accountable to a business firm.

The new woman strives to create a new society—one not ratable by wealth, luxury or display, but by honor, culture and gracious manners. She recognizes that the richest woman is not often the happiest, but that the happiest woman is the richest, and agrees with Robert Grant when he asks: "Is not the secret of modern happy living the art of knowing what to have when one cannot have everything?" And she further agrees with Emerson when he advised simplicity and hospitality in this wise: "I pray you, oh excellent wife, not to cumber yourself to get a rich dinner for this man or that woman who has alighted at our gate, nor a bed made ready at too great a cost; these are things they can get for a dollar and a half in any village."

Woman is then in a transition state. Having outgrown traditions she aims to shape her life in accordance with her aspirations.

The new woman is not the mannish woman, whom some one has aptly described as "neither flesh, fish nor fowl," but an independent human being who has but added strength and reason to her womanly charms—"the old, old woman, ever new and ever young!"

The fears that the new woman will prefer a public to a domestic life are unfounded, for have not some resigned exalted positions "to sit" as Mrs. Browning says:

"In the safe corner of the household fire
Behind the heads of children?"

And the world acknowledges with Faust: "The ever womanly still leadeth us on."

To such an one no less a man and orator than George William Curtis refers in these words: "We have left woman as a slave with Pericles, we have left her as a foolish goddess with Chivalry and Don Quixote, we have left her as a toy with Chesterfield and the Club, and in the enlightened American daughter, wife and mother in the free American home we find the fairest flower and the highest promise of American civilization."

MAKING BOOKS WORK.

By Clara S. Carter, Woburn, Mass.

A GREAT advance has been made in the public libraries of the United States of late years in the matter of developing and providing for the tastes of the people. Probably the larger libraries are twice as efficient as they were twenty years ago, and the gain has been largely due to a better conception of the duties of the librarian. The custodians of libraries like the Boston Public, the Athenaeum, the Harvard University, and other collections, do not regard themselves as curators of literary museums, but as professors of books and reading, with an office and work every whit as honorable and influential as that of the college professor. They, therefore, prepare lists of books on special topics, and post them up for use of readers, especially at times when the demand is most urgent. The selection of books for a private or public library is a matter of such immediate and lasting importance that it may well enlist the most earnest thought and the most discriminating intelligence.

But a wise selection is not enough; there should be added to it a constant determination to make the chosen volumes work for intelligence and for righteousness so long as their leaves hold together.

A library is not a museum of curiosities, but a working force. Some books, to be sure, fulfill their purpose if they are infrequently consulted by a patient scholar, working in a remote and comparatively unimportant corner of the field of learning. Manuscripts in the Bodleian or the Vatican would not be put to their best use, but would be speedily destroyed, were they passed from hand to hand in the community at large. But the majority of libraries in this broad land of general readers, and the greater part of the books they contain, are not designed to throw light upon intricate questions, demanding comparisons of manuscripts or citations of decisions.

The measure of success must be that of the greatest good to the greatest number; and the utility of a library indicates the intelligence with which it is managed. Individual owners of books, to begin with, do not always get much advantage from the books on their shelves. A very small percentage of the volumes contained in many a home are put to constant and serviceable use. The books are there, ready to instruct or amuse; but their possessors "fail to get the good of them." Just as men and women express their desire for more faith and grace, but do not use the faith and grace they have, so do they sigh for more books and lament the poverty of their bookshelves, while neglecting to avail themselves of the existing stock.

A good beginning for a profitable use of one's books is the formation of a habit of looking up things at the time when they are uppermost in the mind. You are not quite sure of the spelling or meaning of a certain word; perhaps you have dodged it for years; get down your dictionary, and fix it in your mind. A very noted person has just died; instead of reading half a dozen perfunctory editorials in the daily papers, take your cyclopaedia and review the leading facts in his life-work, and form an independent opinion as to the merits and demerits of his public labors and personal character.

Foreign politics are in a troublesome condition; now is a good time to consider the relations between hostile countries, the social divisions of the people, and the bearings of the whole question on general foreign politics. The socialistic problem suggests the consultation of books relevant to this increasing question, that we may know just how far human intelligence has already peered into this vast subject. We have selected

these topics as of practical import, next week something new may take their place; but the reader who overcomes the first feeling of inertia, and, instead of postponing her studies to a time that never comes, makes now her opportunity, will be surprised to find how soon her sense of increased intellectual strength will become apparent to herself and her friends.

In making books work the club woman is in and of herself a club. "In union there is strength," and the united mental forces prove a mighty factor for added intelligence and usefulness. Sir Edwin Arnold touched a vital truth of life when he said: "You Americans should value poetry highly and cultivate it lovingly, for nothing could be a better safeguard against the inbreeding of sordidness to your industrious and feverish lives." Poetry is the first blossom of literature. Long before history was heard of, before philosophy began to think, before fiction had a fancy, the light-hearted of the race began to sing. In conclusion let us as club sisters make books work by passing them along to those less favored of even the existence of some helpful book.

In the nervous and impressible organization of women there is almost a gravitation toward things that wear and jar on the nerves. What can lift her like an inspiring author?

THE LARGEST CLUB.

By A. R. E. Nesbitt.

Philadelphia lays claim to having been the first city in the country to establish a normal school. Its history dates back to 1819, when it was a practice school for the training of teachers, and while not to be compared to the normal school of later days, it was at least the early exponent of the proper idea, and was established under the noted English teacher Joseph Lancaster.

The first proposition looking toward the organization of a normal school as it now is, was made by Judge James Campbell in 1841; his idea was for the erection of a building for the thorough training of the female teachers in the branches of a good English education, and in such practical exercises as discipline and develop the mind, adorn and elevate the character, insure the best methods of imparting knowledge; and of instructing children in their studies. Judge Campbell's idea, however, was not carried out until 1848.

On February 1st of that year the school was established under the direction of Dr. Wright in a building on Chester street, between Race and Vine streets. Here it grew and flourished until 1853, when it was removed to a new and larger structure on Sergeant street above Ninth, where it remained for twenty-three (23) years, and was again removed in October, 1876, to a building at 17th and Spring Garden streets.

So successful was the school that in little more than a decade it was found inadequate to the demands made upon it; from a school of 901 pupils it had now grown to a membership of nearly three times that number, so additional facilities had to be provided, and it was determined to remove the professional features entirely from the academic work, and to establish in separate buildings, a girls' high school and a normal school.

A lot was secured at the northwest corner of 13th and Spring Garden streets, and upon this was erected a fine granite building, which was completed in 1893. The work of the new school was cast on purely professional lines. The academic studies, which had been so conspicuous and important a feature of the old school, were confined to the girls' high school, whose graduates have since been and are now the source of supply to the normal school.

In many respects this school is admittedly the foremost institution in America for the training of teachers; the laboratory idea dominates all departments of school work, and its laboratories are said to be the largest and best equipped of any normal school in the country. It is one of the few schools devoted entirely to the training of teachers, there being no academic studies included in the curriculum, which is one solely of methods. The school building cost \$305,000, and the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the normal school idea was celebrated with appropriate and imposing ceremonies on the first day of February last.

The graduates of this school have formed an organization styling themselves the "Alumnae Association of the Girls' High and Normal School of Philadelphia," and it is the largest woman's club in the country. The objects of this club are to cultivate social relations among its members; to promote their interests, to look after their welfare, and to broaden the field for working women.

It has been incorporated; has no capital stock; is to exist perpetually, and is managed by a board of directors consisting of 21 members. The club is composed only of graduates of the school; the annual assessment is one dollar, paid in January, and the life membership is twenty-five dollars.

The executive board consists of a president, two vice-presidents, treasurer, recording and corresponding secretaries; the election for officers is in January, a meeting for social intercourse in May, and other meetings through the year; it has a regular order of business, is governed by Matthis' Manual, was organized in 1889, and incorporated in 1892.

Starting with but a very few members, the indefatigable subscribers, through faith, held their course, until from the small nucleus the club has grown to a membership of over 1700. Among these are many bright lights in the social, educational and literary world; lawyers, doctors, teachers, journalists, stenographers, artists, poets are proud to claim an abiding place among the Alumnae. Wise planning, firm combining have acquired this phenomenal success, Progress is the watchword, and they confidently and serenely look forward to greater things in the future. Beside pleasant meetings the membership card of this club is the "open sesame" to readings, lectures, concerts, which are given during the winter, and any one who has listened to F. Hopkinson Smith, Hudson Shaw, Ruth McEnery Stuart, Thomas Nelson Page, Leland Powers, Richard Johnston and Ida Benfey will know what literary treats are presented.

Two children have been born of this parent association—the "Teachers' Aid and Annuity Association," also the fund which cares for sick and needy teachers, and finds for them when the end comes, a final resting place; the former allows to each retired teacher (after a certain term of teaching) a salary which enables her to live in ease after years of labor. The care taken of the poor and suffering is enough to render immortal the name of this club.

The first president was Mrs. Charles M. Lukens, a lady who was honored and loved as presiding officer and likewise as Miss Barnes, when a teacher in the normal school. Mrs. Lukens retired from this office five years ago, and Mrs. George W. Kendrick, Jr., was elected in her place. She still reigns, and long may she continue to do so, for she is assuredly the right woman in the right place—a splendid parliamentarian, a woman of dignity, she and the position do honor to each other.

Her "life lines have been cast in pleasant places," so that she has never known the meaning of necessitous work, yet she is ever in touch with her club, and always says "we working women," or "we of the sisterhood." Her soft eyes beam kindly, and her sweet mouth ever speaks words of sympathy and encouragement. She is a small woman, but when the gentle voice

says, "Ladies will please come to order," the immediate silence of hundreds of women's tongues testifies at once to the respect felt for the Alumnae's most gracious president.

Mrs. Kendrick is a Philadelphian by birth, and comes of a family of speakers, being a niece of James Murdock and a daughter of Samuel Murdock, the great Shakespearian reader. She is happily married to a gentleman who is thoroughly in accord with her, and assists her in her club work. She has two grown sons, George W., 3d, and Samuel Murdock Kendrick, who are brilliant socially and intellectually.

Mrs. Kendrick is an ideal club woman, being identified with the Civic, Century, Round Table and Browning; is leader of a Shakespeare Club, president of the Alumnae Association of the Girls' High and Normal School, regent of the Quaker City chapter of the D. A. R. of Philadelphia. She was a delegate to the Biennial of the General Federation of Women's Clubs held in Louisville two years ago, and also to the one held in Denver in June, where she was elected to the office of corresponding secretary of the G. F. W. C.

THE LOOKING FORWARD CLUB.

By Mrs. Florence M. Stowell.—Read at the Denver Biennial.

IN John Wanamaker's store in New York city, a club has been formed which is, I think, the first of its kind; but if we succeed in half our aims, there will be encouragement to form such an association in every large department store.

We have in the store 2700 employees, enough for a good-sized village—nearly 2000 of these are women. Are they "ordinary" women? I do not know. I am not quite sure what the typical "ordinary" woman is; but I am sure that if I had time to tell you one-tenth of what I know of the history and character of these women, of their bravery, their endurance, their refinement, even their intellectual attainments, you would see that many of them are spending their scanty leisure in pursuit of the same ends that you pursue, that they have the same ambitions, the same pleasures, the same intellectual delights.

This brings us to one of the chief aims of the "Looking Forward Club," which is purely for the good of the girls themselves. The business woman behind the counter spends from eight to ten hours a day in one of the most exacting occupations known to modern society. She may have talent for singing, writing, social enjoyment, but she has neither time nor encouragement to cultivate her talent. This then is what we are trying to do. We show such a girl that the simple song that she sang last night gave us pleasure; that the little sketch that she wrote had something good about it; that her thoughtfulness of the shy or less favored members of the club has been noticed by some one whose good opinion she values. And the girl who can do nothing for the pleasures of the others? There may be such a one; I have not yet found her. It is only a question of tact and time and sympathy before some chord for her to touch may be discovered. The club, then, must enlarge the horizon of its members; it must give them opportunity to do and encouragement to look further and higher. Its members must help one another and so win support and inspiration for themselves.

The idea of club life is not to lengthen store hours, but to bring into the regular business day something from the outside world that is broadening. If the women of our land who have leisure hours in their homes feel the need of club life, the need of being informed on all the topics of the day—how much more do these who have no leisure hours need to have brought to

them in the easiest and most concise manner all of these things. In our club all of our preliminary meetings at the time of the formation of the club, and every executive board meeting since, have been held during business hours with the approval of the employer. We have time to become informed on these important questions of the day without interfering with business.

Our second aim is to bring about a more harmonious relation, a better understanding of each other, between the customer who stands on one side of the counter and the shop-girl, or rather, the business woman, who stands on the other. Do not misunderstand me. We ask for no charity, not even the charity of extraordinary patience. We do not wish you to leave our counters only half satisfied with your purchases because your first thought has been to save our time and strength. It is our business to serve you, and serve you well, and it is no kindness to us to tempt us to leave half our duty undone. What is it that we wish then? We only wish you to stop a moment and think—think that the distance between the two sides of the counter is not so very great after all, and that the woman behind the counter is perhaps feeling the same joy, or sorrow, or hope, or discouragement, that is making your own heart happy or mournful. Often she appreciates the pretty thing that you purchase just as well as you; let her remember that the buyer was a woman with a pleasant smile and perhaps a kindly word—and let the smile or the word be all the more gracious if it is a free gift and is not called forth by her own grace of manner. You will make her day happier, and you will make all her customers happier. Is this visionary? No, it is only mathematics. Ten times one is always ten and one happy business woman will make at least ten others happy. All this is to the gain of the buyer as well as the seller.

As to the details of the management of our club, it is almost too soon to speak of them, even if the time was not so limited, for while our aims are definite, our methods are tentative. We are only a few months old; we have had little experience, but we have a vast amount of hope and confidence. Our employer gives us most energetic encouragement, most practical support, most sympathetic enthusiasm. The signs of the success of our undertaking are unmistakable. Though I can say so little of deeds, I believe that at our next meeting the hopes will gleam before us in even more brilliant colors than today. I believe that we shall have a record of deeds of which we shall not be ashamed.

Some cynical and perhaps morally near-sighted observer of human life states that the best club is that which has the largest percentage of members with nothing to do, and that the most successful club is that which has the least reason for its existence. Is our club then doomed to fall to pieces of its own weight, to cease to exist because it has so generous a reason for existence? And are these words its farewell rather than its greeting? I think not. Though it is composed of people who have no leisure, it has certainly shown to its members at any rate that there is reason for its being formed.

In the first place there is no tie so strong as a common interest, and there is no interest so strong as the having worked together with the same aim in view. An association formed of women who stand side by side in the little world of a great store, an association formed to broaden the horizon, to widen the circle of interests, to sweeten the life of the working woman, to give happiness to her present and the bright glow of hope to her future—such an association must succeed.

Our club is, as I said, the first of its kind, but I believe that it is the beginning of a widely extended movement that little by little, and long before the distant future shall have become the present, will solve some of those social problems over which we can today but grieve and lament.

MUNICIPAL STUDY.

The Chicago Woman's Club has arranged a "United Study Class" of six departments, and a committee of thirty was selected, as a central topic "The Needs of a Great City," and expressed the wish that the essayists and speakers make the course a comparative study of successful results in various municipalities. After electing a chairman to preside over the study class, the general committee delegated the choice of sub-topics and the arrangement of details to a committee of seven, comprising this chairman and the chairmen of the department sub-committee. This smaller committee has consulted the members of the general committee, especially as to the varied interests of the departments, and will continue to do so throughout the course.

The class will meet on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month from October to April, inclusive, excepting December twenty-eighth and February twenty-second. Time will be given each day for informal oral discussion and all club members are invited to avail themselves of this opportunity.

The program for the year is as follows:

Oct. 12—Development of Public Spirit. a. Teaching of Patriotism. b. Primary Elections. c. The Subordination of Partisanship to Public Welfare. Essayist, James H. Eckels.

Oct. 26—Fundamental Problems of Municipal Organization. a. Centralization or Division of Power. b. Home Rule or Statutory Commissions. c. Municipal Control of Natural Monopolies. Essayist, Carter H. Harrison.

Nov. 9—Enforcement of Laws and Ordinances. a. Reform of Justice Courts. b. Repeal of Antiquated Laws. Essayist, Mary E. Holmes.

Nov. 23—Cleanliness. a. Garbage. b. Street Cleaning. c. Abatement of Smoke Nuisance. d. Public Conveyances. Essayists, A. Emmagene Paul, Jane Addams.

Dec. 14—Public Health. a. Sewerage. b. Pure Water. c. Inspection of Food. d. Public Baths and Laundries. Essayists, Marion Talbot, Edwin O. Jordan.

Jan. 11—Recreation. a. Parks, Playgrounds and Playmasters. b. Free Concerts. c. Swimming Tanks and Gymnasiums. d. A Substitute for the Saloon. Essayist, Helen Root Graves.

Jan. 25—The Intellectual Environment of the Citizen. a. Schools. b. Libraries and Reading Rooms. c. Popular Lectures. d. Newspapers. Essayist, Clara Wilson Kretzinger.

Feb. 8—The Ethical Environment of the Citizen. a. Character Building. b. Popularization of Churches. c. Social Influence of Public Schools. Essayist, Sarah F. Gane.

March 8—The Relation of Art to Public Welfare. a. Architecture. b. Statues in Public Places. c. Art Museums. d. Music. e. Arts and Crafts. f. Posters and Bill Boards. Essayist, Anne C. Haller.

March 22—The Equalization of Economic Opportunities. a. Banks for Small Savings. b. Equitable Pawn Shops. c. Fair Prices to Small Purchasers. d. Housing of the Poor. e. Cheap and Rapid Transportation. Essayist, Florence Kelley.

April 12—Ideals Achieved—A Composite City. Essayist, Marie C. Remick.

April 26—Practical Outcome of This Study to the Chicago Woman's Club. Essayist, Grace H. Bagley.

Life is a mysterious problem, and to live right, a difficult task. Each soul lives alone—has its own secrets, its own joys, its own sorrows, its own lessons to learn. Probably not one sees as another does. The great unity and diversity of the race become a profound study, when we once regard humanity seriously.—Anna W. Longstreth.

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER.

THE FUTURE OF THE GENERAL FEDERATION.

By Cecilia Gaines, President New Jersey State Federation.

ALL who had the privilege of attending the Biennial meeting of the General Federation in Denver, were greatly impressed by the magnificent possibilities of that immense organization. We were also deeply conscious of certain radical defects in its present constitution, which unless speedily remedied will cause a disintegration that will undermine its very foundations.

New Jersey is in a position to point out these defects more fittingly than any other State, because New Jersey may recall with pride how large a share she had in its formation.

Its Godmother or first inspirer was Mrs. Charlotte Emerson Brown, who was also its first president; its baptismal certificate, otherwise its certificate of incorporation, was signed and sealed in the County Clerk's office in Newark, New Jersey, and its first council meeting was held in our state. We therefore feel that we may claim not only that we belong to the General Federation with unquestioned loyalty, but that that splendid organization with its incalculable power for good belongs primarily to us. That we have allowed our big sister New York to claim so many of the honors is due entirely to the fact that our State flower is the "Lily of the Valley," and its modesty the counterpart of ours.

It is therefore because we have its welfare so sincerely at heart that we are looking with anxiety toward its future.

True progress is only possible to the individual, to the government, to the organization that is cognizant of every new development within its horizon, awake to new forces, and flexible in expansion to the needs of new conditions as they may arise.

The Biennial meetings have reached proportions which may well be alarming to our hostesses, and the success of the Denver meeting was only achieved by a fund of energy, enthusiasm and executive ability in the club women of that city which roused the astonishment and admiration of their guests.

We remained a week, each of us attending between twenty and thirty meetings, besides enjoying numerous receptions, breakfasts, dinners, teas, etc.,—and partook of a hospitality as vast as the flower-strewn prairies, as generous as the limitless wealth of the Colorado mines. It is difficult in recalling the pleasure and inspiration of it all, to confine one's self to the more prosaic aspect of the convention, examining the machinery which puts these forces into operation, to find if its construction is equal to the tremendous demands.

There were nearly a thousand delegates not including guests to be provided for and several meetings of equal interest were constantly in progress at the same time in different places.

The largest theater and churches were crowded to overflowing so that the generous hostesses themselves were often excluded, and for nearly a hundred hours there was a continuous flow of oratory under which any being but the time seasoned and "immunized" club woman would have succumbed with mental prostration.

I attended five meetings devoted to the subject of "ways and means," and like many others was convinced that the "per capita" tax, which was finally adopted, was a most serious mistake brought into popularity by a curious misconception of its equality.

To tax men and women "by the head" is as gross injustice as can be well imagined. Should a farmer owning an acre of land be taxed as much as a city man owning an acre worth a hundred thousand? Is that primitive kind of taxation likely to

promote more fraternal equality? The General Federation only meets biennially and in the interim its work is largely clerical. But we are told that to meet expenses its income should be twelve thousand dollars. Now, does the General Federation enact laws for the States or the clubs? No. Does it promote better National legislation for women and children? No. Does it do the practical education and philanthropic work accomplished in the State Federations? No. What then does it do? It inspires. It binds together. It offers opportunity for the world to see the noble uplifting influence of organized effort by the best quality of American womanhood.

This is much, but properly consolidated it would show more substantial results with far less expenditure. The State Federations are every year showing a record of new libraries formed, bills put through the State Legislatures, improved sanitary, social and educational conditions within their borders, on incomes averaging from two to five hundred dollars a year.

In my judgment the finest meeting of the Biennial, that is to say, the one fullest of the records of achievement and therefore the most inspiring, was when each State Federation president tried to tell in the paltry three minutes allotted to her, the story of what had been done within her State organization during the past two years. The whole meeting occupied one hour and a half out of the entire convention week. It was a private one, unattended by the delegates, so that its effect was lost and in many cases the president was necessarily rung down before the story was finished, even in outline. In fact the State Federations were distinctly kept in the shadow, having no place on the program, and no position of dignity among the delegates.

What is the real status of the State Federations today? They are powerful organizations, with a constitution somewhat similar to the General Federation, numbering in certain cases as many as twelve, fifteen or twenty-five thousand individuals, combining the elements of club effort in each State, promoting large interests and working as a unit in all good causes.

There is a growing fraternity amongst these State Federations. New Jersey is glad to learn of the fine results of Wisconsin's work for travelling libraries, deeply interested in the sociological investigations and efforts in Massachusetts, proud to welcome brave little Delaware into the sisterhood, and her heart yearns with sympathetic tenderness at the noble courage of Oklahoma and Washington. The annual meetings of the State Federation yield loyal enthusiasm to the General, and delegates are sent to represent the State in the National reunion who are well equipped with a knowledge of State affairs. What do they encounter at a Biennial meeting?

They find the entire State delegation responsible to an officer called a "State Chairman of Correspondence," who, as was carefully pointed out, takes precedence of the State president. This officer is appointed through the influence or at the suggestion of those attending the previous meetings; she is often unknown to the State and of course has no constituency to stand for. She is appointed at one Biennial to "represent" the State at the next, and her appointment is unknown to the State at large until after it is an accomplished fact. If, as occurred in some cases, she is not present, the delegation cannot be called together until another is appointed. In one instance, at least, a stranger from another State was appointed to act in that capacity, to verify credentials and head the delegation.

Now, before I attended the Biennial, I supposed that this style of "representation" had passed into "inocuous desuetude" when the appointed Governors of the Crown departed to their respective countries and the Fathers of American Independence turned a new page in the world's history.

How comparatively few clubs are in touch with the State Chairman as compared with those under the State Federations may be judged by the few instances following:

	No. of Clubs in the Gen. Fed.	In State Fed.
Maine	4	96
Iowa	36	181
New York	28	196
Kansas	8	124
New Jersey	12	72

Only twenty clubs in the country belong to the General Federation which do not belong to their State Federations, while nearly sixteen hundred clubs which belong to the State Federation do not belong to the General. Why? Because the vast majority of the clubs feel the true method of representation in any National organization in this Union is by States.

This brings us to the real issue.

When the General Federation was formed there were no State Federations, but shortly afterward the Pine Tree State, always a pioneer in good work, formed the Maine State Federation. The first President of the General encouraged this movement and the second did much to promote it. It remains, therefore, for the third to recognize that the only sure basis for the General Federation to rest upon will be a union of State Federations alone.

The day has now passed when clubs should be members of the General body, and also when an appointed officer who is partly a missionary and partly a clerk, is allowed to supersede the regularly elected representatives of these great organizations.

In certain districts that office may still be of use, where the work of organization is incomplete, or where no State Federation yet exists. Then, as in our Territories, the central government should of course appoint a governor; but when, as in our National Constitution, the State has once been admitted to the Union and a star placed on the flag to show that she is an integral part of this great Union of independent and interdependent commonwealths, she has the right to send her own representatives to the National Congress, superseded by none, to present her individual needs and defend her own interests.

In such a consolidated Federation each State should be taxed, not "per capita," but in proportion to the State revenues. The States would be glad to pay a liberal tax, but the work thus simplified by more direct communication, the expenses of the General would be greatly reduced.

The present proportions of the General Federation are most unwieldy, and the future, growing in the ratio we may naturally expect, holds possibilities for our hostesses suggestive of the locusts in Egypt, "Who covered the face of the earth so that one could not see the earth, who filled up all the houses," etc.

By the present system every little reading club of twelve members contributing one dollar and twenty cents per annum may send a delegate who ranks with a State president representing twenty thousand women and large public interests. Unaccustomed to broad methods and wide views, such a woman may waste valuable time in futile inquiry and useless discussion.

Until the day before the meeting on which the election takes place, no one has any definite idea of the candidates for office or their qualifications and the highest officers of this great body of some hundreds of thousands of women may never have been heard of except by a few of their neighbors until their names appear on the ballot. I know of one instance in which a director was not aware that she had been nominated

and was amazed to find herself elected, an honor which she expected to decline.

The program committee moreover sought out the talent, engaged the speakers, and was obliged to furnish much of the financial support for its success.

If the States alone were the constituents parts of the National body each would be held responsible for a part of the program, and this tremendous responsibility would be distributed equally. Nominations should be made within the States for the General officers; and electors, duly empowered, form a central committee, to prepare a ticket sufficient time in advance, for the delegates to be properly informed in regard to each candidate and have some intelligent idea why they are casting their ballots for her.

Women ought to study civics more.

The Constitution of the United States may not be a perfect instrument, but it is the best human ingenuity has thus far devised, and the General Federation cannot do better than to catch its spirit, for is that not a great Republic of Letters, of advanced thought and socialistic purpose in the highest sense of that term?

Fancy what kind of government we should have in Washington if every hamlet, every village could send a representative to the National Congress who would rank with a Senator.

Would such a method be more democratic than representation by States? I am persuaded not; while the latter method is both systematic and more dignified and the loyalty to the National body should be even greater because of its superior strength and solidarity.

It is a narrow, undeveloped and inconsiderate view which can see disloyalty in such a proposition. It was clearly seen to be the only possible solution of the problem before us, by some of the clearest visioned women at the Denver meeting.

There are now too many little wheels, and it takes too many revolutions and too much friction to move onward by such complicated machinery.

We should have fewer, larger wheels (one for each State), strong and solid, every spoke a Club, fitting by proper adjustment just where it can best serve, and the progress of our great National organization will be assured.

Let us ask the Council to consider these things, realizing that the State Federations can get on without the General, while the General can have no sure basis but the solid support of those now powerful units, the States. It has at present no right to ask co-operation of those to whom it accords so little recognition.

Let us not ignore essentials, fundamentals, to grasp non-essentials. Let us consider well the new developments and revise the constitution to meet new and larger conditions.

Many voices are already asking a "raison d'être" for this immense organization.

Let us consolidate it, let it achieve all the possibilities within its wide grasp, efforts toward uniform legislation in education and in labor problems, toward purer social conditions and better, broader opportunities for all throughout our land.

Let each State be not an "auxiliary," but an integral part of the whole. Each will then offer her best and a fine rivalry in noble achievement will spring up among the States.

We are glad to acknowledge all that it has been as an inspiration and bond of union, carried on by devoted women whose loving service deserves the gratitude of their countrywomen everywhere; but if it is to be "great" instead of "big," a simplification of construction must shortly ensue.

This state of affairs is not peculiar to the General Federation. It is the same old story of evolution, as old as Nature,

manifesting itself in women's organizations as part of the Divine law of progress.

The presidents of the State Federations have here an opportunity to express their views in this special department of this excellent and valuable paper. The Council, I feel sure, will welcome such suggestions from such a source as indicative of the vital interest felt in our great National organization, that the future may achieve the promise of its past and our faith in it be justified.—Cecilia Gaines, President of the New Jersey State Federation.

THE STATE FEDERATION QUESTION.

By M. Wentworth Hopper, Racine, Wis.

THE legislation accomplished at the fourth Biennial should be critically examined by every woman interested in the prosperity of the club movement, for there seems to be a question, in fact, two questions, one of utility and one of justice, that yet remain unanswered. The General Federation was organized when no State Federations existed, but now that the usefulness of these bodies has been demonstrated, it is surely unwise to pass laws discriminating in favor of individual clubs. To illustrate the situation as regards representation, brought about by the change in the constitution, let us apply the new rule to Wisconsin. It has thirteen clubs belonging to the G. F. W. C., with a membership estimated, approximately, at thirteen hundred, and, according to the composition of its clubs, is entitled to twenty-six delegates, or one to every fifty members. Annual dues and biennial votes bring the cost of each vote to ten dollars. The State Federation, with eighty-eight clubs, will pay twenty-two dollars annual dues and have seven delegates. Deducting the members of twice federated clubs there will be one delegate to every four hundred members, and each vote will cost six dollars.

The combined wisdom of seven hundred women could devise no better scheme than this, to make the dues and representation fair and equal for these two organizations; and the query raised by the National societies, and the incipient discussion begun regarding the position of City Federations give additional proof that nothing less than reorganization can do away with these disturbing conditions.

The greatest expense connected with the administration of the affairs of the G. F. W. C. is its correspondence. It now must communicate all details to over six hundred associations. If only State Federations were joined together to form the General, all this could be accomplished with one-twelfth of the expense, and the unwieldy character of the council would be changed, and the dignity of the body greatly enhanced. If individual clubs devoted all their energy to secure the success of their respective State Federations and gave liberally to their support, then these bodies could easily defray the decreased expense of the General Federation.

If the club movement of the United States is to be solidified into a permanent institution, the pyramid should serve as a model for its construction, for it is emblematic of symmetry and endurance. The G. F. W. C. should form the grand apex, to be supported in its exalted position by the lesser organizations in logical gradation, with each club woman representing a rock in the foundation or broad base upon which the edifice should rest and without which it can never stand. The structure, as it is now compiled, resembles a truncated cone, in the erection of which thirty State pyramids were used, the interstices being filled with City Federations, large and small clubs, and National Societies; but the effort of many of these clubs to hold positions in the State pyramids and, at the same time,

serve as chinking to round out the main structure, illustrates the weakness of the present plan.

If each rock in the base of a pyramid should insist upon again being represented in the apex, there could be no apex; there would be only a heterogeneous mass, that would inevitably fall apart, because the physical laws that insure strength and durability were ignored.

The situation should be critically surveyed and impartially discussed. The majority opinion would guide a Ways and Means committee, enabling its members to come before the convention of 1900 with a well defined policy and a feasible, carefully matured plan for reorganization.

This department is designed especially that State presidents may find a medium of communication on the important measures of club work throughout the country. All such are invited to send in their views, no matter how radical or how conservative, on the subject of Miss Gaines' article, or upon any subject which is of interest to all. In all cases, names of the writers must be signed for publication.

NO MORE NEW BUSINESS.

The Self-Sufficient Club is composed entirely of women. It has its constitution and by-laws and professes to do business in accordance with the rules laid down in Cushing's manual, but thus far it has been unable to subordinate the love of free speech to the requirements of parliamentary usages. In fact, it has never gotten beyond "new business" since organized.

It was while working under this head the other evening that Mrs. Snobs, large and impressive, rose to a question of privilege.

"I object," snapped little Mrs. Hittom, whose husband is a lawyer. "It's not new business for Mrs. Snobs to talk. She's always at it. Nine-tenths of the time of this club has been taken up in listening to her with her questions of privilege and points of order."

During the applause that followed this sally Mrs. Snobs glared and removed her bonnet in the same spirit that an angry man rolls up his sleeves. For half an hour she poured hot shot into the ranks of the offenders, making a special target of Mrs. Hittom, who raised a point of order every two minutes, but could not get a hearing.

"Mrs. Speaker," shouted a 200-pound woman from the rear of the room, "have you no backbone, or are you ignorant? Sister Snobs rose to a question of privilege, yet she has been yelling and jawing away as though this club had hired her to do its talking. It's about time that some of the rest of us had a chance," and for twenty minutes the stout lady held the floor against all comers. Then indignation gave way to a babel of voices, protests and denunciations that ended in a noisy adjournment. Now the executive committee announces that nothing will hereafter be done under the head of new business.—Detroit Free Press.

Women have unconsciously grown. Instead of the timid, shrinking president of the old time, we have the dignified, well-poised president of to-day—a woman assured of her position, knowing full well that she is the chosen leader of the highest aristocracy this country has ever known—the aristocracy of brains.—Mrs. Noble L. Prentis.

Never before has the club movement seemed so earnestly missionary in spirit, so eager, almost impatient, to help. It is not a propaganda. It proclaims no creed. It does not even care to exploit its own organization.—Harriet C. Towner.

RETROSPECT.

By Annie G. Murray.

ALL my life long have I happily dreamed,
Just happily dreamed the hours away,
And Hope's radiant glow in my heart has seemed
To gladden each coming day.

I roamed by the willows, letting the stream
Mirrored with lilies, absorb my thought,
Till every lily's gold heart held a dream,
And I cared not what future years brought.

Nor can I forget the rapturous kiss,
Exchanged 'twixt the lake and the odorous breeze;
Nor the hue of the Heavens in those moments of bliss,
Whose deep azure shone through the trees.

Nor would I love's melody ever forego,
Attuned to the notes of its vibrating lyre,
For gain of what many are longing to know,
The poms, to which men aspire.

O happy days, watching the birds on their wing,
O exquisite days with their radiant glow;
Life seemed to me then but an infinite Spring.
And Time—as too blissful to go.

BOOKS.

"War Memories of an Army Chaplain," by H. Clay Trumbull, formerly Chaplain of the Tenth Regiment of Connecticut Volunteers, is a work of some 400 pages, in which the author gives reminiscences of his labors in the civil war. He relates nothing that he did not see or have a part in, and this personal factor makes the book many fold more interesting and valuable than it otherwise would be. Mr. Trumbull followed the fortunes of war from the beginning of hostilities to the last act at Appomattox and shared in its dangers and hardships. He was taken prisoner and confined at Columbia and in Libby prison; his story of the cruelties and privations endured by the inmates of those places is thrilling and soul harrowing. The inner life of the soldiers in camp and on battlefield, the thoughts and feelings of soldiers in active army service, have never been set forth with so much fidelity and force as in this excellent work. Mr. Trumbull has a warm heart for the soldier boy and writes of him justly, yet truthfully. His book is almost entirely anecdotal, and the stories are such as were worth the telling. For the Grand Army man, the woman of the Relief Corps, for the citizen who knows of the war by reading and hearsay, for the schoolboy and girl, this book is a treasure. It will inspire more patriotism than a shelf of books on the history of the war. Its putting forth is timely; it is a notable work, deserving the widest reading. For club classes in United States history it will prove of great value.—(Scribner's Sons.)

Dr. Leopold Schenk is probably one of the most eminent of medical men living. He made his name a household word some months ago by a startling theory, which is now put forth in book form under the title of "The Determination of Sex." The title makes the purpose of the book evident. The theory

has received the endorsement of the savants of Europe and America and is probably one of the most important physiological discoveries of the age. While the work is thoroughly scientific it is yet within the easy comprehension of the laity, and for those interested in this sort of work, the book will prove to be of undoubted value. It certainly opens up a new field for scientific research and investigation.—(Akron, O.: The Werner Company.)

"The Unquiet Sex," by Helen Watterson Moody, consists of five essays, entitled "The Woman Collegian," "Women's Clubs," "Women and Reform," "The Evolution of 'Woman,'" and "The Case of Maria." In each of these Mrs. Moody has put forth her full thought, her honest convictions and her most critical judgment. She writes with an honest purpose and while many will hardly accept her conclusions, no one will question the earnestness of the author. In *The Club Woman* we have made reference to Mrs. Moody's remarks on Women's Clubs, citing extracts from the essay as it appeared in *Scribner's Monthly*. The article by Mrs. Moody is calculated to stir up vigorous protests from club women, for it looks at the subject from a standpoint that is held to be entirely unfair; but as Mrs. Moody starts out with the proposition that she is not a club woman and knows nothing of the practical working of clubs, it is scarcely worth while to consider her brilliantly written essay seriously. The book is well worth reading, however, for the writer's keen insight into modern shams and human frailties, and for the writer's fearlessness in attacking boldly even the subjects of which she professes to know little.—(Charles Scribner's Sons.)

"The Ivory Series," a choice, handy, dainty series, 16 mo. in size, gilt top and only 75 cents in price, has in it many delectable writings, the latest being Mrs. Alice Morse Earle's "In Old Narragansett," consisting of familiar fireside tales of which "some are but vague traditions, others summer dreams, a few are family chronicles." There are eleven tales in all, each charmingly told, full of local color, and fragrant with the odor of dear, by-gone days. If one has ever spent days in the coast sweep of the western shore of Narragansett Bay from Wickford to Point Judith, Mrs. Earle's little book will serve as a delightful reminder of "perfect days," while all who are interested in folk-lore tales, etc., will find this to be a serviceable and valuable book.—(Charles Scribner's Sons.)

In "Cornell Stories," by James Gardner Sanderson, we have a collection of tales relating to college life and college doings that will evoke the liveliest of interest from all undergraduates and awaken memories long slumbering of gray-haired graduates. There are a half dozen tales in the book, each founded on some stirring incident of college life, each insistent with that college feeling and sentiment that go so far towards making college life in this country invigorating, substantial and lasting. The stories are told without effort; there is no elaborate striving after elegance; it is all forceful and charming because natural and unstudied. The author had a story to tell and he told it; that's all.—(Charles Scribner's Sons.)

"Songs of War and Peace," by Sam Walter Foss, is the latest collection of poems by this true New England poet. Mr. Foss makes no fuss over his verses, they write themselves and are plain, strong, earnest and hearty expressions of sentiments that are not foreign to the human mind, but set forth in a manner superior to the average human expression. In every one of Mr. Foss' poems there is a clear cut idea, and the

meaning of his songs goes deep. There is a healthy ring to the patriotic verses that fires the heart and thrills the soul, while the dialect poems are, in their homely setting, replete with rustic philosophy and genuine humor. It is a most gracious and acceptable collection of verses, fully equal to any hitherto put forth by the author.—(Lee & Shepard.)

Bird clubs—and there are an increasing number of them—will find in a little volume called "How to Name the Birds," an invaluable aid to their study. It is called a "pocket guide to all the land birds and waterfowl normally found in the New England and Middle States, for the use of field ornithologists"; but it is quite as useful to the bird lover and to all who find pleasure in the study of the feathered tribes. If the Audubon societies were able to put this little book into the hands of every fashionable woman and persuade her to study it, there would be little use for their efforts for the discountenancing of bird-wearing on bonnets.—(Charles Scribner's Sons.)

Membership of workingwomen in afternoon clubs is practically impossible, even if it were advisable, which is another question. But open evening meetings are possible, and they may be a source of results undreamed.

The steady growth of our Federation and of our individual clubs is the best endorsement of their usefulness. The club movement of this country is one of the greatest events of the century.—Pamela A. Patterson.

There are two qualifications absolutely necessary for a good officer: first, love for the cause; second, the power of instilling this spirit in others. The good officer acts as an inspiration to the whole club.—Ada Davenport Fuller.

Our homes, our schools, our public library, the neglected and untidy corners and alleys of our streets, the sweet songs of multitudes of tiny, trembling warblers invite the sympathetic, intelligent concern of each woman and each club.

The woman's club is the logical outcome of the needs of education. It is the mothers training school. But there must be unity of purpose between mother and teacher. The latter has struggled long for that end. It has been the work of the club to accomplish it.

A house is no home unless it contains food and fire for the mind as well as for the body. For human beings are not so constituted that they can live without expansion. If they do not get it in one way, they must in another, or perish.—Margaret Fuller Ossoli.

The school board has a right to expect from the women's clubs greatly needed moral support in all its judicious efforts. It also feels that merited censure will be forthcoming for any narrow-minded policy which cripples the efficiency of the schools.—Irma T. Jones.

Club women are now learning the most needed lesson of all, to work from the top downward, to reach the masses, to develop the idea of the sisterhood of all women, and help bring all together on one plane,—to be, in fact, a strong, helpful, elevating force.—Ellen M. Henrotin.

No more valuable study and work can be undertaken than the careful looking after the welfare of children, and certainly the work can be done to better advantage by many persons

banded together for that purpose than it could be by the individual.—M. E. S., Cambridgeport, Mass.

We may all be lacking in many accomplishments, but there is one that springs up indigenous in every woman's heart; God planted it there, the gift of "helpfulness," the gift of all the gifts the best; use it with thankfulness. So if "faith, hope and charity" exist, remember the greatest of these is charity. It is already on the door of the Philanthropic Committee rooms, let us all have it engraved over the lintels of our hearts.—Mrs. Brice Collard.

In my opinion, one of the markedly distinctive characteristics of club training on the life of women is that it has aroused their interest in sociology. They have realized that their home is affected by outside influences, and that if the child next door to them, or in their back alley, is a sufferer from any environment, their child suffers equally; and the work of the club has taught them their tremendous responsibility as a part of the community life, as well as the home-maker.—Ellen M. Henrotin.

In general we lack business methods, we lack familiarity with parliamentary law. In nearly every club calendar sent to us we find art and music arranged for study, art sometimes made interesting by photographic reproduction, and the stereopticon. This is most commendable, but we ought not to omit the discussions of subjects dear to every woman as the member of a home. It has been truly said that "it takes brains to run a modern kitchen."—Mrs. H. H. Pyle, 1st vice-president, Connecticut Federation.

It may be but a vision, but I will cherish it. I see one vast confederation stretching from the frozen north, in unbroken line, to the glowing south, from the wild billows of the Atlantic westward to the calmer waters of the Pacific main, and I see in every city a woman's club house, so that any woman traveling over our fair land and carrying with her the open sesame, "I too am a club woman," will find everywhere at least one hospitably open door within which she is sure to find a welcome and friends.—Fannie J. Taylor, in Club Owl.

Women's clubs have been an untold blessing in very many ways—widening woman's outlook, breaking down her prejudices, enlarging her sympathies, increasing her knowledge. There is scarcely a club worthy of existence but proves a stimulus to thought and action, preventing the mental rust and enervating monotony that are too often a part of the domestic life. The many grand literary and philanthropic clubs have, in so many instances, proved woman's redemption from mental and moral death, that we say to our sisters, "take as many of these post-graduate courses as your purse and family duties permit."—Mrs. Estelle Mendell, Belmont, Iowa.

If you have a personal dislike, or a personal fancied grudge or a prejudice against one who chances to be a member of your club, try to act as if it did not exist during the half hour of tea after the meeting. Do you know what will happen if you do? In the five minutes or less rational conversation which you hold with her, and any conversation that you hold about her, forgetting any late unpleasantness, you will be pretty sure to find in her something which you did not suspect—something pleasant. And from prejudice and dislike, that five minutes repeated in club time will bring you to toleration and actual liking all the time. It has been done and it can be done. Try it.—Zona Gale in Evening Wisconsin.

General Federation of Women's Clubs.

LIST OF OFFICERS:

President,
MRS. WILLIAM B. LOWE,
513 Peachtree Street, Atlanta, Ga.
Vice-President,
MRS. SARAH S. PLATT,
Hotel Metropole, Denver, Colo.

Recording Secretary,
MRS. EMMA A. FOX,
21 Bagley Avenue, Detroit, Mich.
Corresponding Secretary,
MRS. G. W. KENDRICK, Jr.,
3507 Baring Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

Treasurer,
MRS. PHILIP N. MOORE,
1520 Mississippi Avenue, St. Louis, Mo.
Auditor,
MRS. C. P. BARNES,
1026 3rd Avenue, Louisville, Kentucky.

THE GENERAL FEDERATION.

THE first meeting of the new executive board of the G. F. W. C. will be held the 11th, 12th and 13th of this month in Omaha, instead of in Philadelphia as was at first planned. Mrs. Frances M. Ford, the secretary of the Trans-Mississippi Exposition, is a member of the board, and as Omaha is in a sense a centre for the committee, which has members from all parts of the country, the meeting will doubtless be a great success. The appointing of various committees and the state chairmen of correspondence will be the chief order of business.

There is talk of changing the time of the Biennial meeting from May or June to October. Those who have sweltered through the conventions at Louisville, Philadelphia and Denver will be glad to have the date for the next one fixed in October or November, when the air is pretty sure to be bracing and traveling comfortable. Minneapolis and Milwaukee are both under consideration for the next meeting place.

Word was received from Mrs. Fox last month requesting that all club women should send subscriptions to her for the report of the Denver Biennial, too late for anything more than a mere paragraph in the back of the September Club Woman. It is proposed to print all the papers and addresses given at Denver in book form, provided a sufficient number of subscriptions can be taken. One thousand are necessary to guarantee the publication, at one dollar each. Those who attended the fourth biennial will surely want this volume, and many who did not go will be glad, we should suppose, to subscribe for it. Names should be sent at once to the recording secretary, Mrs. Emma A. Fox, 21 Bagley avenue, Detroit, Mich.

Mrs. Jennie C. Croly, one of the honorary vice-presidents of the G. F. W. C., and author of the "History of the Club Movement," has so far recovered from the severe accident of last June that she has gone to England for the winter. She is still obliged to use crutches.

The report of the business sessions of the Denver Biennial has been sent out, prettily bound in paper covers. Besides the minutes of the business meetings it contains the address of the president, Mrs. Henrotin, reports of the corresponding and recording secretaries, treasurer, badge committee, local committee and departmental reports from the art, civic, industrial and educational sections, home economics and libraries reports, committee reports, reports from chairmen of state correspondence, presidents of State Federations, and the report of the joint conference of state chairmen and state presidents. The pamphlet ought to be in the possession of everyone interested in the club movement. The report is necessarily devoted to the business of the Federation as conducted and prepared by the president and officers of the Federation. It is both valuable and interesting even to those who were not present at the meeting, as showing the number and strength and aims of the Federation.

The expenses of the General and State Federations are increasing and must increase up to a certain point, says Sarah B. Harris in the Lincoln, Neb., Courier. Unless the object of assembling is recognized as being something greater than the natural stimulus that individuals engaged in the same work receive from meeting together in large numbers, the expense, the long journeys and the sturm und drang over the offices are not worth while. The culture and stimulus can be secured at a smaller outlay of money and of vital force, but the organization, because it includes everybody with an inclination for culture, and because from the president to the humblest member of the most obscure club, the chain is unbroken, is one of the strongest organizations in existence. The members have begun to study economics and industrial questions. For the first time their impotence, their lack of real influence on remedial legislation has been made apparent to women who have always claimed that they have all the rights they want or can use. With the growth of the General Federation the diffused sentiment, which is still rapidly crystallizing, will have a medium of expression of sufficient size and impressiveness to catch the eye of the politicians. The importance of sustaining the General Federation is therefore apparent.

HOUSEHOLD ECONOMICS.

Mrs. Marion A. McBride, the founder of the first Woman's Press Association of this country, has charge of the women's department at the twentieth triennial exhibition of the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association, which will open at the Mechanics' Building in Boston, October 10, and continue until December 3. The departments of special interest to women will be grouped under the heads of Household Art and Domestic Science, Patriotic Department and Educational or School Department. Household Art will be shown by samples of home work in decoration, artistic groupings and practical plans. Domestic Science will include cooking by oil, gas and electricity; the largest electric cooking plant ever shown in New England will be in operation day and evening, with practical electricians in charge and a cooking-school teacher will operate the simple cooking system. All the latest cooking utensils will be in use, and the finest foods of the present day will be used and explained. The Patriotic Work, directed by Mrs. William Lee, will embrace the loan collection of rare articles which belong to the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association. The Army Nurses' Association of Massachusetts will erect and maintain a hospital tent, show hospital work, army supplies, and emergency rations. School Work, under the direction of Miss Emma F. Foster, will embrace proper school house construction, heating, ventilation, decoration, textbooks, school luncheons, manual training, school kitchens and patriotic teaching. There will also be a Woman's Congress with sessions every day.

STATE FEDERATION NEWS.

The Maine Federation held its annual meeting Sept. 28, 29 and 30, too late for a report in this number. The meeting was held in Brunswick by invitation of the Saturday Club. The meetings of the Federation were held in the Congregational Church, but by the courtesy of the faculty of Bowdoin College, a reception was given the evening of Wednesday, Sept. 28, in Memorial Hall, on the college campus. Thursday evening there was a public meeting, when Prof. William G. Ward of Cambridge spoke upon "The Training of the Future Citizen." A full report will appear in the November Club Woman.

The annual meeting of the New Hampshire Federation, which usually takes place in October, will this year be postponed until November 2. The program is not yet completed, but the convention promises to be of more than usual interest.

The Vermont Federation will meet October 5 and 6 in Brattleboro, the home of the president, Mrs. L. E. Temple. It promises to be an unusually attractive meeting, although there will be a variety of subjects treated. Mrs. Ex-Governor Fuller will give the visiting club women a reception the opening night and there will be a large delegation from the "Daughters of Vermont" in Boston, which club recently joined this Federation, making fifteen in all.

The Massachusetts Federation will hold its first fall meeting in October this year, instead of in December as usual. The meeting will be held at New Bedford, by invitation of the young but flourishing woman's club of that city. The subject of the day will be "Sensational Journalism," this Federation, which holds four or five meetings a year, invariably having one subject for each meeting and obtaining specialists on that subject as speakers. Among those who will address the meeting on October 19 will be Attorney-General H. M. Knowlton, Miss Winslow, editor of *The Club Woman*, and others yet to be announced. Up to the time of our going to press the full program had not been arranged. Miss Rowe, the new president, will conduct the meetings.

The Massachusetts Federation will also hold two days' meetings in connection with the congresses of the Mechanics' Fair in November, in the Woman's Department, which is being finely organized by Mrs. Marion A. McBride. These meetings will be in charge of the education committee, Mrs. E. N. L. Walton, Chairman. "Vacation Schools," "Musical Kindergartens," "Co-operation Between Teachers and Parents" and "Moral Training in the Schools" will be the subjects of these meetings.

In New York the annual Federation meeting will be held in November. Mrs. Helmuth, the president, who has been abroad ever since the Denver meeting, is due to arrive in New York October 12. At the coming meeting instead of long essays and individual reports from clubs the time will be given to the discussion of questions pertaining to the vital interests of the organizations represented as well as to the welfare, advancement and education of the citizens of the State. On these lines, therefore, the sanitary conditions, the proper care of the sick and destitute poor, the improved housing, ventilation, heating, etc., of the public schools, as well as the co-education of the sexes, will be considered. It is proposed to found a normal training school for wayward girls—not a charity institution, but a State institution, with all the dignity and order

of a well organized and properly conducted school, where the highest objects shall be to prepare girls for an honorable and useful life, and take them from under the influence of immoral and vicious surroundings, and give them the opportunity of self-culture. It is also the purpose of the Federation, says Mrs. Helmuth in her Denver report, to take such steps as may be deemed wisest and best to insure the placing in the Congressional library at Washington of the statue, bust or portrait of a truly representative American woman—one who embraces in her personality all the characteristics of our sex, one to whom all can bow in admiration, respect and esteem; one who has made her name a household word, who in herself is a representative woman, wife, mother, sister, patriot, citizen and Christian; one whom the great General Federation, an organization composed of nearly half a million women, has honored by making her its honorary vice-president for life—Mrs. Julia Ward Howe of Boston, ex-president of the Massachusetts State Federation and for twenty-five years president of the New England Woman's Club.

The Ohio Federation holds its convention in Columbus, October 26, 27, 28. The program committee will utilize Ohio talent very largely in the program, believing that the best work done in the individual club may safely be honored with a place at the convention. Practical club topics will be interspersed with papers of high literary merit. Two of our Ohio authors will favor us with "uncut leaves." Mrs. Platt, vice-president of the G. F. W. C., will be present and give an address. Mrs. Lowe, president of the G. F. W. C., is also expected. Ohio now numbers 196 clubs. A very large attendance is promised from all parts of the State. "The Chittenden" is the hotel headquarters, the place of meeting the Great Southern Theatre.

The regular annual meeting of the New Jersey State Federation will be held on October 27 and 28, at Elizabeth, by invitation of the federated clubs of that place.

The session will open at ten o'clock on Thursday morning and after the usual address of welcome and response the morning will be devoted to business. After the registration of delegates and the necessary reports of the officers and chairmen of standing committees, the report of the nominating committee will be heard and the candidates for the various offices announced. The election will take place on the morning of the second day, at which time an entire new set of officers and three new directors will be elected, the officers to hold office for two years.

During the last year the Federation has been doing very active work in the interest of free public kindergartens, the advancement of public education, and for the travelling library. Through their efforts a bill was passed by the last Legislature authorizing the establishment of a system of these libraries throughout the State, and the women hope to see it in active operation this coming winter.

The department of education has during the past year sent out circulars to each club inquiring into the status of the public schools, and at this meeting the chairman will give a detailed report of not only the condition and number of schools, but the number of evening schools, the manual training schools, free kindergartens, the work of school room decoration, and some idea of the general interest displayed by the women in each municipality in public education, a few of the towns in New Jersey having women on their school boards.

The subject of the meeting after the transaction of regular

business and the election of officers, is "Sociology," and the topic will be presented from every standpoint. Prominent workers in the social settlements, women physicians who have spent years among the poor, women who have thought and written much on these problems have been invited to address the meeting, and those having the program in charge feel that many subjects hitherto but little studied by the clubs will be presented and result in a work of reform and regeneration being earnestly pursued by the women. On the evening of the 27th the officers and delegates of the Federation will be entertained by Mrs. Williamson, the president of the federated clubs of Elizabeth, at a reception at her house. The Federation expects to have as guests during these sessions many of the officers of the General Federation.

The District of Columbia held their first meeting of the club year Saturday, September 24, in Washington. The presidents of all these clubs were on the committee of relief for the soldiers, and all have been working very hard throughout this hot summer, caring for the soldiers and for their families. The annual meeting of the D. C. Federation will be held October 19, when there will be a general change in officers, most of whom have served faithfully for their full term of two years. This Federation, though smaller than some, accomplishes a wonderful amount of work, being made up of active, zealous and earnest club women.

The Illinois Federation holds its fourth annual meeting in Central Music Hall, Chicago, Oct. 18th to 21st inclusive. Four new clubs have joined us this week, which makes certain that we shall pass the 200 mark before we meet. Each club is entitled to two candidates.

Carter H. Harrison, mayor of Chicago, will give an address of welcome on behalf of the city, and Mrs. Penoyer L. Sherman, president of the Chicago Woman's Club, on behalf of the Federated Women's Clubs of Cook County, who are the hostesses of the Federation. The president, Mrs. Robert Hall Wiles, will reply and immediately afterward deliver her annual address. Mrs. Lowe, president of the General Federation, will be present and address the convention Tuesday evening. Mrs. Mary Hartwell Catherwood, the novelist, will speak upon "The Romance of Illinois History." Mrs. A. P. Stevens, ex-factory inspector of Illinois, who is now visiting the parental schools of Massachusetts and New York, will speak upon them, with especial reference to the need of like schools in Illinois.

The seven active working committees will give their reports upon the work done during the year. These committees are education, philanthropy, literature, art, music, public libraries and the University of Illinois. These reports will be discussed with reference to future work.

The art committee will give an exhibition of "Household Furnishings of Good Design," with practical talks by experts pointing out the artistic meaning of the exhibit. In this exhibit we shall have the co-operation of the Arts and Crafts Society of Chicago. The Chicago Art Institute gives three rooms, including its beautiful new audience hall for the exhibit and addresses. At the same time the Chicago Public School Art Society will fit up one room as a model school room, exhibiting such sculpture and pictures as it considers desirable for school-room decoration.

The clubs of Cook County will give an evening reception to delegates and visiting members Thursday evening in the Grand Pacific Hotel parlors, which are very spacious and superbly finished and furnished.

During the first two days of the meeting President McKin-

ley will be in the city, and it is earnestly hoped and expected that he will address us, but arrangements are not completed.

Everything points to as large an audience as we had in Denver, and Illinois club women are looking forward to the meeting with eager pleasure.—Alice Bradford Wiles, President Illinois Federation.

The Wisconsin Federation will meet November 9 and 10, and a report will appear in the December Club Woman.

The Minnesota Federation, numbering 101 clubs, will hold its annual convention at Winona, October 26, 27 and 28. This will be a fine convention, as besides noted speakers from the State, the national president, Mrs. W. B. Lowe of Atlanta, Ga., will be present. Mrs. Frederick Lyon Charles, president of the Woman's Literary and Educational Organizations of Western New York, will give an address. Miss L. E. Stearns, State librarian of the Wisconsin Free Library commission, will give a stereopticon lecture on "Travelling Libraries." Through her efforts 169 libraries of 50 books each are now circulating through the rural districts of Wisconsin. Miss Margaret J. Evans, dean of Carleton College, and president of the State Federation, will give her "Message of the Year." Prof. Torrey, superintendent of Winona schools, will talk upon "What Clubs May Do for the Public Schools."

One whole session of the meeting will be devoted to the interests of the North Star State and will be known as "Minnesota Day." Especial attention will be given to its educational system, origin, growth and present condition. A symposium of women's clubs in their various relations will also be a feature of the program. The "Progress of Women—Past and Present" will be discussed in five minute talks by different club women. "Racial Dietetics" and "The Place of Mothers' Clubs in the Federation" will also receive attention. Art in its various relations, civic, ethical and educational, will receive proper recognition.

The Nebraska Federation convenes October 11, 12 and 13, in Omaha, and as the executive board of the G. F. W. C. will be there at the same time a very brilliant meeting must result. The State Federation meeting is limited to one day, Oct. 11, that the next two days may be given to the Trans-Mississippi Congress of Woman's Clubs, which meets in connection with the State Federation. The time will be given to such addresses and discussions as will be of interest to the whole Trans-Mississippi region. The president, Mrs. Stoutenborough, whom all delegates to Denver remember so kindly, will go out of office this fall, having filled her term of office.

The North Dakota Federation meets October 25 and 26 at Wahpeton by invitation of the Book and Thimble Club. The committee is working to make the entire session practical, giving time for discussions and trying to make clubwork in North Dakota mean something more than the pleasure of the individual member. One afternoon will be devoted to "The Club Woman in Relation to Her Home, to the School and to the State." The musical clubs of Fargo and Jamestown will take a prominent place on the program. Club women of that State also look forward with great pleasure to a promised visit from Mrs. Belle M. Stoutenborough, president of the State Federation, who will speak on

Public School." t of the Nebraska

The Colorado Federation will also meet in October, the place being Greeley and the dates October 11 and 12. The program had not been received up to the time of going to press,

but a report will be given of the meeting in the November Club Woman. Visitors at the Denver Biennial will regret to hear that the Colorado president, Mrs. M. D. Thatcher, has been suffering all summer from the effects of the fall which incapacitated her from appearing on the platform on the opening morning at Denver. Mrs. Thatcher has so far recovered, however, as to have been East recently, visiting in Saratoga, New York and Boston.

"Without any exception the Club Woman is the best club publication I have ever seen, and every woman interested in the work ought to have it. I recommend it everywhere as the best national club paper extant."—Mary Whedon, editor Western Womanhood.

"The Club Woman seems to improve with every number, and in many letters which I receive I am tendered the thanks of the writer for suggesting her subscription to it—that it is such a help and inspiration," so writes Mrs. Arthur C. Neville, secretary of the Wisconsin Federation.

"Every member of this club should feel a personal sense of responsibility for its failure or success. Every member should be a working member, and there should be absolute loyalty from each club member to every other individual member and to the club as a whole." This is a high standard, is it not? But it is none too high, for we all need the tonic of a really lofty purpose. A sense of personal responsibility, a desire to be helpful to others, and a faithful, loyal spirit towards our fellow-members—these are principles that should underlie our feeling and our conduct.—Mary Parker Woodworth, Concord, N. H.

Miss Helen M. Cole, who so ably presented the subject of "The Bible as Literature" at the Denver Biennial, makes a special work of giving instruction to clergymen in Bible and hymn reading. Miss Cole was the first American woman to enter Edinburgh University after its doors were thrown open to women. There she took honors in English under Professor David Masson. She spent last year at the University of Chicago, studying Biblical literature. In addition to her chosen work Miss Cole is helping to introduce the subject of the literary study of the Bible into women's clubs. This is a comparatively new department of club study and wherever it has been introduced it has been enthusiastically received. Miss Cole expects to be in Boston and vicinity during the spring of 1899.

In discussing the intellectual value of clubs, Mrs. Amelia Gere Mason, in her brilliant article on "Club and Salon," in the June Century, says: "The clubs have hardly lived long enough to justify a final judgment as to their outcome; but the best writers of our own time have not been, as a rule, actively identified with them, though a few, whose minds were already formed in another school, have had much to do in founding and leading them. The many able women who have given their time and talents to the clubs have oftener merged their literary gifts, if they had them, into work of another sort, not less valuable in its way, but less tangible and less individual. It is the work of the general, who plans, organizes, sifts values, adapts means to definite ends, but who lives too much in the swift current of affairs to give heed to the voice of the imagination, or to master the art of literary form which alone makes for thought a permanent abiding place.

THE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION DEPARTMENT.

Conducted by Mrs. Viola Price Franklin.

Dr. R. G. Moulton of the University Extension Division of the University of Chicago, has all his time engaged for two years in advance. This speaks volumes for the progress of extension work. He kindly sends me this message for club women:

"The Woman's Literary Club is distinctively an American institution. In Europe it is hardly known. English women in England take, as individuals, great interest in intellectual pursuits, but seldom work in this way collectively. On the other hand, the university extension movement has been a much greater success in England than in America. So far as audiences are concerned, this movement has been equally successful on both sides of the Atlantic; perhaps even more successful in the United States, inasmuch as here large audiences are made in smaller towns than in Great Britain. But when the question is of the student's work, that is an element of university extension teaching, the comparison is very different. In England, I have been accustomed to get from thirty to one hundred written exercises every week from a class; in America, outside one or two cities, it is difficult to get half a dozen. By universal testimony the quality of these papers in England was on a par with work done in the universities; the work of my American classes is slight, and scarcely any of the students can be called real workers.

"In part, this difference between university extension work in England and America can be explained by a circumstance much to the credit of America: that a much larger proportion of the people in the United States go to colleges and universities, and so do not do work for the university extension classes. Again, I have noticed in those who attend lectures on this side an unwillingness to commit themselves in writing; were it a question of talking they would be less reticent. But in part there is no doubt that the activity that might have been expected to go to university extension work is already claimed by the literary clubs.

"Any locality that could harmonize these two institutions—the literary club and the university extension movement—would be doing great service to the education of the mature mind, which is not less important than the education of the child. In some localities clubs have made special arrangements to harmonize their programs with the expected arrangements of university extension courses. As lecturer, I have visited a city and advised with representatives of its clubs at the time of the year when these were considering the program for the ensuing winter. Nearly all of them agreed to make provision in their program for the subjects of the lectures, so that the work of the clubs and of the university course assisted one another instead of conflicting. It would be unreasonable to expect clubs to give up their work for the sake of an external scheme. But when it is only a question of making a part of their program fit in with what will be a subject of interest, at the time, to themselves and all their neighbors, most club members readily and heartily concur. A movement that brings the cities into close association with the universities is worth supporting, and the members of local literary clubs, presumably the leaven of thought in their locality, should be foremost in the support of the wider system."

The following syllabi, published by the University of Chicago, will be very helpful to women's clubs in planning their programs. From a personal knowledge of the work planned in these courses, I can recommend them most highly. The prices range from 10 to 25 cents each, according to the size of

the syllabus. Clubs desiring these can order them in quantities. When ordering, address The Extension Division, The University of Chicago:

In English Literature.

- No. 7. Moulton: Shakespeare's Tempest.
- No. 62. Moulton: Studies in Shakespeare's Tragedies.
- No. 10. Moulton: Stories as a Mode of Thinking.
- No. 29. Moulton: Interpretative Studies in Spenser and Milton.
- No. 30. Moulton: Literary Criticism and Theory of Interpretation.
- No. 53. MacClintock: English Romantic Poetry from 1780 to 1830.
- No. 67. MacClintock: Studies in Fiction.
- No. 91. Lewis: Types of American Fiction.
- No. 81. Ella Adams Moore: General Literature.
- No. 88. Ella Adams Moore: Novels of George Eliot.
- No. 66. Zeublin: Social Reform in Fiction.

In History.

- No. 56. Terry: An Introduction to the Study of History.
- No. 50. Terry: Baron and King.
- No. 47. Shepardson: Social Life in American Colonies.
- No. 57. Shepardson: American Statesmen and Great Historic Movements.
- No. 78. Sparks: The Men Who Made the Nation.
- No. 80. Sparks: Character Studies in American Development.

In Art.

- No. 33. Prof. French of the Art Institute: Painting and Sculpture.
- No. 24. Lorado Taft of the Art Institute: Art at the Columbian Exposition.
- No. 44. Lorado Taft of the Art Institute: Contemporary French Art.
- No. 63. Lorado Taft of the Art Institute: Painting and Sculpture of Our Time.

THISTLE-DOWN.

As the purple thistle-down softly scatters its influence from shore to shore, bearing on each tiny spire a rich seed, so many these items of news sow the good seed of extension.

Mr. J. I. Wyer, librarian of the University of Nebraska, is interested in extending library knowledge. He is a graduate of the New York State library school, where, as bibliographer in the study club department, he became familiar with the work of women's clubs. This great library considers the women's clubs such valuable co-adjutors that the organizers of extension classes are advised to seek first the co-operation of the women. Mr. Wyer is anxious to assist clubs in establishing libraries. He will furnish lists of best books, aid in sending out travelling libraries, give any desired information as to extension literature or work, talks on library methods, or any topic allied to "Home Education." He will be pleased to receive inquiries.

Some of his lectures are: "The Modern Library Movement," "Travelling Libraries, What They Have Done and May Do," "Study Clubs and Libraries," "Selection of Books in Public Libraries."

The Art Department of the Lincoln Woman's Club is ar-

ranging for a series of lectures in the interests of their work in the public schools. The course will be opened by Dr. O. L. Triggs of the University of Chicago, who will lecture on either William Morris or George Inness.

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Mrs. Stoutenborough, president of the Nebraska Federation, writes: "I am in full sympathy with this movement." Her hope is to have the subject presented at the State Federation meeting in Omaha, in October.

* * *

The Cozy Club of Tecumseh, Neb., will take a course of lectures on Shakespeare, by Dr. Sherman of the State university. A similar course, last winter, was greatly appreciated.

* * *

The members of the Shakespeare Club of Freeport, Ill., who have been studying Shakespeare for a number of years, taking eight plays each year, have decided to do their work this year in connection with the Club Study Department of the University of Chicago. Their program, which has been prepared by Ella Adams Moore, of the English department, includes a study of Shakespeare's Sonnets, and of the following plays: "Love's Labor's Lost," "Comedy of Errors," "As You Like It," "Much Ado About Nothing," "Merry Wives of Windsor," "Romeo and Juliet," "A Midsummer Night's Dream," "Twelfth Night."

* * *

The club will study the plays from outlines prepared by Mrs. Moore. Three meetings will be given to each play, and papers, readings and discussions will be the features of each meeting. The club will also listen to several lectures during the year, by specialists in Shakesperian study.

* * *

Mrs. Emma Parks Wilson, Dean of Women, of the University of Nebraska, is lending valuable aid to the clubs in organizing extension classes.

* * *

A club at Concordia, Kansas, has ordered, through the librarian of the University of Nebraska, several syllabi on American Literature from the extension division of the New York State library school.

* * *

The Winfield (Kansas) Sorosis has arranged for two lectures for its course on American Literature. Prof. L. T. Weeks of the English Department of S. W. K. College, on "James Russell Lowell," and Mrs. Ida Ahlborn Weeks, of the same department, on "Literary Women of America."

* * *

Once upon a time three women, appointed on a program committee, met to plan a course in Grecian History. Mrs. Adams remarked: "Ladies, our knowledge of this subject is limited to the fact that Socrates' domestic affairs were somewhat unpleasant, hence it is preposterous to imagine that we can arrange an intelligent course of study. There is a professor of Grecian history in our city, and his work at the college has proved his ability. Will it not be wise for us to secure his services? We could only grope along in the dark, and you are aware of what happens when the blind lead the blind."

Owing to the beneficent influence of "The Mellowing of Occasion," the other members, rare women, heartily agreed with the chairman and as a result a very profitable year's study was accomplished under the safe guidance of the professor.

* * *

Address all communications for this department to the conductor at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Neb. The experience of clubs in university extension is especially desired. How may we be of assistance to you?

CLUB STUDY DEPARTMENT.

May Alden Ward.

Study of Spanish History.

- I. Early History.
Iberians and Celts. Various conquests. Carthaginians, Romans, Goths, Saracens.
- II. The Moors in Spain.
Called in by the Saracens, they conquer all Southern Spain. Civilization of the Moors.
- III. Seats and Monuments of the Moorish Power.
Cordova, Seville, Toledo, Granada. The Alhambra and other buildings.
- IV. Christian Provinces in the North of Spain.
Growth of the kingdoms of Leon, Castile, Aragon and Navarre. Alfonso the Learned. Peter the Cruel. Exploits of the Cid.
- V. Marriage of Ferdinand and Isabella.
Union of Castile and Aragon. Beginnings of Modern Spain.
- VI. End of the Seven Hundred Years' Struggle Between Moors and Christians.
Conquest of Granada and complete overthrow of the Moorish power.
- VII. Reign of Ferdinand and Isabella.
Establishment of the Inquisition. Expulsion of the Jews. Persecution of the Moors. Cardinal Ximenes.
- VIII. Period of Exploration.
First, second and third voyages of Columbus. Magellan. Balboa.
- IX. Charles I. of Spain. (As Emperor of Germany his title was Charles V.)
Culmination of Spanish influence under Charles. Founding of the Order of the Jesuits. Abdication of Charles.
- X. Spanish Possessions in the New World.
Cortez and the conquest of Mexico. Pizarro and the Conquest of Peru.
- XI. Reign of Philip II.
Madrid the capital city. Persecution of Protestants in Spain and in the Netherlands. War with the Turks. Battle of Lepanto, turning point in decline of Turkish power in Europe.
- XII. Revolt of the Netherlands.
Wealth and influence of the Low Countries. Intelligence of the Dutch as compared with the Spanish. The Duke of Alva. William of Orange and the desperate struggle of Holland for existence.
- XIII. Disastrous Effects of Philip's Reign.
Building of the Escorial. Immense wealth of the nobility and clergy and impoverishment of the people. Neglect of all the arts and trades, and of agriculture after the expulsion of the Moors. War with England. The Spanish Armada. Philip's last days in the Escorial. Philip III. Philip IV.
- XIV. Golden Age of Spanish Literature under the three Philips.
Cervantes, Calderon, Lope de Vega. Spanish Historians.
- XV. Spanish Art of the Same Period.
Murillo. Velasquez. Ribera.
- XVI. Reign of Charles II. "The Mad King."
Shocking condition of Spain at the end of the 18th

century. Decay of industry and increased impoverishment of the people.

XVII. Beginning of the Bourbon Rule in Spain.

The War of Succession. Establishment of Philip V., and loss of Sicily and Gibraltar. Reign of Philip V., Ferdinand VI., Charles III. Efforts at improvement. Suppression of the Jesuits.

XVIII. Charles IV.

The Intriguing Queen. Godoy, the "Prince of Peace." Quarrels between the king and his son Ferdinand. Napoleon's interference. Description of Spain at the end of the 18th century by the historian Vargas Ponce. Ignorance and superstition.

XIX. French Rule in Spain.

King Joseph Bonaparte. The National movement among the Spanish people. Siege of Saragossa. Campaign of Wellington. Rout of King Joseph and expulsion of the French army.

XX. Return of the Bourbons.

King Ferdinand VII. Cortes adopts constitution abolishing the Inquisition and curtailing the privileges of the nobility. King overthrows the constitution and recalls the Jesuits. Revolution of 1820. French army comes to the King's aid. Absolutism restored.

XXI. Loss of the Spanish American Colonies.

Mexico, Central America and South America all become independent. Only Cuba and Porto Rico left to Spain in the new world.

XXII. Ferdinand's Fourth Marriage.

Intrigues of the new Queen. The Salic Law set aside. Birth of Isabella. Death of Ferdinand VII. Christina made regent. Claims of Don Carlos. Scandalous conduct of the Queen Regent.

XXIII. Marriage of Isabella II.

Reckless course of the Queen. Carlist wars. Revolution of 1868, called the "Revolution of Disgust." Spain in search of a king. Brief reign of Amadeus. The short-lived Spanish Republic. Efforts of Cuba for freedom from 1868 to 1878.

XXIV. The Bourbons Recalled Again.

Reign of Alfonso XII. Rule of the Queen Regent and the "Boy King." Revolutions in Cuba and the Philippines. Some Spanish statesmen: Castelar, Canovas, Sagasta. Spanish-American war of 1898.

AUTHORITIES.

- A History of Spain, by U. R. Burke.
The Story of Spain, by Edward Everett Hale and Susan Hale, in Story of the Nations series.
The Christian Recovery of Spain, by H. E. Watts. Story of the Nations.
The Moors in Spain, by Stanley Lane Poole, same series.
Modern Spain, by Martin A. S. Hume, same series.
Spain, by James A. Harrison.
A Child's History of Spain, by John Bonner.
The Spaniards in History, by James C. Fernald.
Spain in the 19th Century, by Elizabeth Wormeley Latimer.
Four Centuries of Spanish Rule in Cuba, by Italo Emilio Canini.
Spain, by Edmondo de Amicis.
Questions concerning club study, methods, authorities, etc., will be answered in this department. Communications should be addressed to Mrs. May Alden Ward, 62 Kirkland street, Cambridge.

OPEN PARLIAMENT.

Conducted by Mrs. Edward S. Osgood.

I am very much interested in this study of Parliamentary law for women, and would like to ask you to give me the names of some works of reference in which women figure prominently as parliamentarians.

"The Woman's Manual" and "Shattuck's Advanced Rules," by Harriet R. Shattuck, are the best. Of course it is not to be understood that parliamentary law for women differs from parliamentary law for men. "The Woman's Manual" does not differ in principle from Cushing or Roberts or Reed. It is simplified and stripped of much legal verbiage and valuable detailed explanations are added, tabulated questions, charts, etc., and frequently put forward by teachers.

How shall we study parliamentary law to best advantage?

In classes, as a rule. In case of special need private lessons are best, but to be an all round parliamentarian, the friction of mind with mind is needed.

A course of lessons, followed by a practice class, or if you cannot have a full course, a few lessons or a single "drill" will set your feet in the right road.

As a rule should a vice-president be advanced to the presidency?

Never because she is vice-president. It is a bad precedent. A woman may be an excellent adviser, do splendid work on the executive board, preside well when called to the chair, yet lack the rare combination of qualities which go to make an ideal president. To compel a club to select a president in its vice-president is to impose a task prophets only should understand. The term of office is usually two years, or what amounts to the same thing, an officer is eligible to the same office two consecutive years. That requires you to say today that the member you elect to the office of vice-president will make a good president two years from now, and your convention practically elects the president for a convention two years hence to ratify.

Do sub-committees survive the administration which appointed them?

A committee is a dependent body accountable only for what it was instructed to do and subject to the society which appointed it. A committee may be appointed at a session to do work which cannot be accomplished within the limits of the official year. The committee does not cease to exist until its work is done and it is discharged; the passing of officers does not annul the acts of the society.

Address all communications for this department to Mrs. E. S. Osgood, 48 Winter Street, Portland, Me. Wherever a constitutional point is involved, send a copy of the Constitution and By-Laws. All correspondence strictly confidential. To insure an answer in the next issue of The Club Woman communications should be sent in by the 15th.

"The Woman's Manual of Parliamentary Law" is the authority for the G. F. W. C. Send 75 cents to The Club Woman for a copy.

AMONG THE CLUBS.

THE WOMAN'S CLUB of Norman, Oklahoma, reported through its delegate to the convention at Oklahoma City as follows: "We have had our trials and discouragements. At times it seemed that every woman who left town belonged to our club. About half the original members remained faithful until others joined. In the last year we have gained so much strength that the mere mention of dying, as a club, would call forth a spirit of resistance quite equal in intensity to the struggle which it required to keep alive a few years ago." The attendance at club meetings was reported as excellent. One member has not missed a study class in two years and a half. And an indorsement of the salubrious climate of Oklahoma came in the statement that in four years and a half the club had encountered disagreeable weather only once in its weekly club meetings. The Woman's Club has a questioner who prepares ten general questions upon the lesson and distributes them two weeks in advance of the recitation. The philanthropic tendency of the Woman's Club is evidenced in the establishment of a reading room and library, now open to the public. A room is also to be made comfortable for the country woman who has hitherto had a sorry time of it "waiting for the wagon" that is to carry her home.

At the same meeting Mrs. M. Carter reported for Guthrie's C. L. S. C.: "The greatest benefits have been derived from the cultivation of a fraternal spirit. I have seen the most cordial friendships among Catholics and Protestants, Unionists and ex-Confederates, Republicans, Democrats and Populists, gold and silver advocates, Prohibitionists and those who favor high license. None of these things have brought a discordant note into the club. Neither has friendship been severed between those who liked Trilby and those who did not, or those who consider 'Quo Vadis' the best book of the last half century in opposition to others who believe it to be a pernicious book, revolting in its realism." Mrs. J. S. Childs sketched the growth of the Merry Wives Club of Purcell, I. T. Of the future she said:

"We have laid no plans, bound ourselves to no manner or method of work, but await the arrival of new ideas, the baptism of new knowledge in ways and means that shall aid us in reaching the goal we seek—living to learn and learning to live." One of the resolutions of this club is that it shall be conducted on a broad and liberal basis and have for its sentiment, "Knowledge brightens sunshine."

Mrs. J. J. O'Rourke, president, and Mrs. Fred H. Wright, secretary, represented the Monday Club of El Reno, which was organized in April, 1897. The past year's course has included a study of Ridpath's History of the United States. A weekly membership fee provides current literature. The course of study for the coming year will take in a commendable variety of subjects.

Mrs. E. M. Clark's report of the Ladies' Tuesday Afternoon Club of Perry gave an insight into the transitory condition of the first years of the territorial opening. "We consider our club a success," said she, "in that it widens our horizon and lightens the cares of life. It draws us together and helps us to form new ties to replace those sundered when we left old homes to make new ones in a new land."

We know that the J. M. Hanson subscription agency, Lexington, Ky., is reliable in every way. If you want to subscribe for two or more magazines, patronize it.

THE NEW ERA COOKING-SCHOOL DEPARTMENT.

Harriet A. Higbee, Worcester, Mass., Superintendent.

WHEAT.

Authors disagree as to the origin of wheat. Most say its origin is unknown. Some that it belongs to the grass order. One, that its pedigree can be traced back to the lilies and water plantains, from the time it was discovered by savage man, growing wild on the untilled plains of prehistoric Asia. He took it under his special protection in the little garden plats around his hut, until it has gradually altered under his constant selection into the golden grain that now covers half the lowland of Europe and America. Egypt cultivated wheat two thousand years before the Christian era. China claims to precede that date by seven hundred years. The Bible mentions wheat (1749 B. C.) in the 14th verse of the 30th chapter of Genesis, where it says, "Reuben went in the days of the wheat harvest and found mandrakes in the field." The lake-dwellers of prehistoric Switzerland have left evidences of its cultivation. Since most ancient times it has been carried from one country to another by explorers and hostile invaders, as well as by philanthropists. It formed the principal food of the people of Rome for three hundred years. Introduced into Mexico by Cortez, and into Peru by a Spanish lady. Gosnold, the explorer, brought it to Massachusetts in the seventeenth century. Today wheat is the most extensively cultivated in the western and northwestern portions of the United States, Russia and France. It is also cultivated in other European countries and in India, in fact, in most countries of the world. From this fact, so far as a supply is concerned, we readily see that wheat is available as a universal food product. It is the only one that is suitable for a standard food for man and for the reason not only because of its availability, but it contains more nearly in the correct proportions all the properties to properly nourish all the elements of the body. We have therefore in wheat both quantity and quality and a proper raw material out of which to prepare a perfect standard food for man. The question is, how to prepare this marvelously perfect product without destroying its virtue or its value as a whole. Long before the Christian era, the Egyptians prepared wheat for their unleavened bread. The Greeks ground wheat in small hand mills, operated by the women slaves of the household; and the consumer received the entire wheat robbed of none of its strength giving properties. In ancient times the wheat was crushed between two stones, pounded in baskets, and as far back as 1898 B. C. wheat was probably known and made into meal. The first mention that we have of wheat flour is found in Exodus 29:2, 1495 B. C. In the history of the Roman republic we first hear of machinery for grinding wheat, in place of the hand mill. With more or less favorable results, since the time when wheat was first prepared for food by man, it has been the product out of which many food preparations have been made. The value of such food largely depended on how nearly all the properties of the entire wheat were retained. The Indians broke down the cellular formation of the whole wheat berry by pounding it between two stones. This product was then made into a dough, or stiff batter, by mixing with water, and baked flat between heated stones, thus retaining all the properties of the entire wheat. It was baked somewhat hard and therefore required mastication,

which resulted in thoroughly mixing the saliva with it, a process necessary to insure digestion of the starchy properties in the wheat. Here there was no contamination by the use of any foreign admixtures; and the bread thus made by the Indians, in nutritive value and in being a well balanced food, suggesting if not compelling mastication, a condition precedent to proper digestion and good health, has probably never been improved on until the discovery and manufacture of the product which it is the especial object of this article to describe, including as well the process by which it is made—reference being had to the Shredded Whole Wheat Biscuit, the invention of Henry D. Perky of Worcester, Mass., where the biscuit are manufactured in large quantities.

SHREDDED WHEAT AND HOW IT IS MADE.

The best of wheat is bought directly from farmers, cleaned of chaff, dust, foreign seeds, etc. Then the rock and other substances of greater gravity than the wheat are removed by an ingenious mechanical device. After thorough washing in cold water, the wheat next goes into great wire tumblers which are submerged in large kettles where it remains in and under boiling water until thoroughly cooked, during which time the tumbler has been constantly revolving. The boiling water loosens the woody brush, the fungi and all insect life and eggs, while the constant rapidly revolving motion of the tumbler in the boiling water causes the wheat by abrasion, one grain against another and the whole against the steel wire tumbler, to be thoroughly washed and cleansed and the foreign substances to be carried off in the water. This operation leaves the wheat berry in the whole state. This is the first cooking. By further agitation out of the water, the wheat is prepared for and spouted to the hoppers of the shredding machine.

The shredding machine is one hundred and four feet long, contains thirty-six pairs of shredding rolls each of which deposits continuously about eighty shreds in a space of four inches wide, and into wooden troughs carried by a belt so that when the troughs have passed under all the rolls the thickness of a biscuit is in the troughs. Continuing, these troughs one against the other, end to end, pass under the knives and the shreds are cut into biscuits three by four inches. Here the shreds, now in biscuit form, are lifted with clean wooden paddles on to wire pans, and placed in racks, rolled to the oven and put in to bake. About thirty minutes in five hundred and sixty degrees of heat suffices. The ovens are of the Ferris wheel style and are the largest in the world. As the shreds are light and porous the high degree of heat thoroughly bakes them. This is the second cooking.

Still on the wire pans the biscuit are now returned to the rack, which holds one hundred and fifty-two dozen biscuits, and rolled into a furnace of lower degree of heat, where the biscuit remain from five to six hours. This is the third and last cooking, and by which processes the starch in the wheat is changed to dextrine, making the same a proper food for a person with the weakest stomach or for the hardest man. After removing from this furnace, the biscuit, still on the pans in the racks, are allowed to cool. They are then deposited on metal slides carrying them to the packing table, and here for the first time the hand touches them, but where absolute cleanliness and tidiness is required of the packing girls. The latter place one dozen biscuit in each paper carton, placing an insert of paper between each layer of biscuit. Fifty of these cartons (fifty dozen biscuit), are nailed securely in neat, clean wooden cases, and are then shipped to the wholesale trade—an absolutely clean and perfect food, without an equal.

(To Be Continued.)

CLUB NOTES.

THERE ARE now twenty-seven societies in the United States, membership in which depends on descent from ancestors who distinguished themselves by coming over to America at an early date or by being officers in American wars prior to 1861. Most of them are in a flourishing condition. The old aristocratic Cincinnati leads them in age and dignity. Some of them are restrictive, not only to descendants of a certain line of ancestors, but still further to those of descendants who may be agreeable to the incorporators. This brings in the social element and keeps the society select. Generally, however, the historic claim is recognized as paramount without regard to the wealth or social standing of the applicant. But as a rule all persons who can trace their blood to a pre-Revolutionary ancestry are desirable people. It is to be hoped that the social and aristocratic side of these societies will not become too prominent, for the fact of American descent should be the controlling condition, and putting in permanent form American local history the main object in view.

THE PROGRAM of the Shakespeare Club of Lyndonville, Vt., for 1897-8, shows part of a plan of study, which began with Art of the Renaissance, and has included Italian, Dutch, German, Spanish, American and English art and history. The present year began the study of America, the name, which now seems a misnomer, has been kept for old time's sake. The club has always had a high standard, work being wholly extempore, a practice which we think gives ease of speech and manner, as well as cultivating the memory. We have contributed largely to the public library, and in the past two years have raised by entertainments about \$250 for the beautifying of a park in the center of our village. The club has an educational committee, all mothers, which is trying to bring about much needed improvements in our town schools. Our active working force has averaged about twelve. (Mrs. Constance G. Blodgett, Recording Secretary.

THE ROXBURGHE CLUB of Roxbury, Mass., is living up to the object of its being—service—and has sent \$100 to the Massachusetts Volunteer Aid Association for the hospital ship. The Roxburghe Club is young—a working club—and with no bank account, so that in order to give this amount the members voted to give up their one social meeting of the year. Probably there are many clubs that are only waiting till they meet in October to contribute to the Relief Fund, and if they know of the simple method followed by the Roxburghe Club they may like to adopt it and make their contributions now when the need is most pressing. A special meeting of the directors was called and a reply postal card was printed and mailed the same day to each member of the club, asking her to notify the president of the club within ten days "whether she preferred to send \$100 to the Massachusetts Volunteer Aid Association for the hospital ship, or to reserve that amount for 'Gentlemen's night.'" Within forty-eight hours more than two-thirds of the club members had replied, and the check for \$100 was sent to Col. Higginson for the hospital ship.

There are still people left in the world who ask the question, "What good do women's clubs really accomplish?" Here is one good example:

In Wisconsin, one City Federation has distributed copies of some of the world's best pictures among the schools, and intends also to form a collection which shall circulate in country schools. Another City Federation has aroused an interest in the children in street and school improvements, distributed flower

seeds, offered a prize for the best garden, constructed a course of lectures on art, and has control of one column of one issue each week of a city paper. In one city the Woman's Alliance supports a manual training school; another has started a cooking school and conducted public meetings to discuss educational matters. It's only another illustration of the old saying, "Many hands make light work;" especially if they are willing and capable hands.

To Editor of The Club Woman:—

In "A Few Words About Words," in September Club Woman, by Alice M. Wood, we think she has omitted two words which are more often used ungrammatically by educated persons than any which she mentioned. These are the words "people" and "that." We see in articles by literary persons and hear from cultivated speakers the first of these used with a definite number, as "six" or "twenty people," when they should say "six" or "twenty persons." "People" is a collective noun. One person can never be a people; therefore, six persons can never be six people. The dictionary will tell you the word people is never to be used with a definite number. We can speak of a nation as a people, but never a definite number of individuals.

The word "that" is now used to the almost sinking into oblivion of the pronouns "which" and "who," both in writing and speaking. Although "that" is lawfully grammatical for both persons and things, yet how much better and respectful it sounds to say "the man who was speaking," rather than "the man that was speaking"—or whenever we refer to persons. In many cases the propriety may be more apparent. The pronoun "which" is almost discarded, as one may notice if she will observe carefully.

We regret these changes, which have crept into polite language with no notice or reproof from literary critics. (As an illustration, notice in the above sentence that nine out of ten persons would have said "changes that.")

The fact is, we see literary critics making the above mistakes in their own writings.—Harriet J. Roworth, 109 Bowen Street, Providence, R. I.

The Governors of New Jersey, Kentucky, Maine and Illinois have voluntarily offered any co-operation in their power in furthering the work of the organizations, particularly that of the library movement.

"I believe the club women of America will eventually abolish the sweating system in this country."—Mrs. Sidney Webb.

The Club Woman will be an indispensable aid to every club member the coming year. Don't neglect your renewals.

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WOMEN IN COUNCIL of Roxbury, Mass., although they are convinced that the scrubbing of schoolhouse floors is sometimes a necessity, rejoice that there are other duties to the schools of a more edifying nature. After two suggestive papers from club members on the "Duty of the Club to the Public Schools," and "Club Influence for Aesthetic Culture," it was voted to expend the money appropriated from the treasury for school purposes on certain works of art, to be placed in school buildings, where before there was little or nothing of real worth. Accordingly, in each of six grammar schools of Roxbury and two schools of primary grade, some masterpiece was placed, to serve as an inspiration in itself and also as an incentive to pupils and friends to beautify still further the walls of these school homes. The club hopes to continue its work in this direction another year. The casts selected were Luca della Robbia's "Singing Boys," and the "Victory," from Trajan's Column. The pictures were two carbon photographs of the Sistine Madonna, Murillo's "St. Anthony," and "Children of the Shell," Andrea del Sarto's "St. John," Raphael's Madonna della Sedia; Notre Dame Cathedral, and some loose pictures to be used as folio matter were contributed by a member of the club. The story was told of one teacher who had been saving her money to buy a Millet for her schoolroom, but sickness in the family had made it necessary for her to use the money at home. Her heart was made glad when she was told to buy the picture and have it framed as she wished; a club member bore the expense.

That this small beginning was appreciated beyond all expectation no one can doubt who has seen the letters that have poured in from teachers and children alike. When the matter of espousing the cause of the schools was first suggested, objection was made that such action would be considered interference. The women in council being willing, evidence that every effort of theirs has been warmly met by the teachers, who, far from mentioning the word "interfere," regard the club women as their best friends.—Caroline S. Atherton, Roxbury.

THE HEPTOREAN CLUB, of Somerville, Mass., is rightly considered one of the foremost organizations of the country. From the day of its establishment it has been well managed and kept absolutely up to the highest standard.

Mrs. C. A. West has been president since the founding of the club, and to her executive ability and tact, and her charming personality, much of the success attained is due. When the officers were to be elected for the coming year, Mrs. West desired to serve no longer, but an earnest appeal, full of affectionate expressions of regard, was sent Mrs. West with the signatures of every member of the club, and she consented to a re-election. The past club year has been a remarkable one for the work accomplished. Lectures of the highest grade were provided, covering wide fields of intellectual thought. Prof. Henry T. Bailey, of Boston, spoke on the "Perception of Beauty"; Prof. John Graham Brooks, on "Luxury"; Mrs. Mabel Loomis Todd, on "Art in Japan"; Prof. W. H. Pickering, on the "Planet Mars"; Mr. F. Marion Crawford, on "Italian Home Life"; Dr. Richard Burton, on "Literature as a Spiritual Power"; Miss Mary G. French, on the "History of Dance Music"; Gen. Charles H. Taylor, editor Boston Globe, on the "History of American Journalism"; Dr. Philip S. Moxom, on "Hildebrand"; Prof. W. H. Goodyear, on "Pompeii"; Mr. F. Hopkinson Smith, on "Rambles in Spain, Italy and Holland"; Miss Vila W. White, on "Old Folk Songs"; Prof. William H. Miles, on "Mountain Sculpture"; and Mrs. Margaret Deland, on the "Change in the Feminine Ideal." There were classes admirably conducted by well-known leaders, in history, literature and current events. Two scholarships have been founded

by the club, a free bed is supported in the city hospital and a most valuable course of free medical lectures—as a part of the university extension—by distinguished physicians of Boston, was provided for the public. There were many extremely enjoyable social functions and the whole year was crowded full of the most satisfactory work and pleasure.

THE PEMIGEWASSET WOMAN'S CLUB, Plymouth, N. H., held its first annual meeting Monday, May 23. This club was organized in July, 1897, and joined the State Federation at that time. The first meeting for work was held the following October. Since that time meetings have been held regularly every two weeks. The subjects for the most part have been historical. The study for the coming year will be on the literature of the nineteenth century. Great credit is due the executive committee and other officers for their able management of this first year's work of the club, and each member duly appreciates the benefit to be derived from the opportunities offered. There is no doubt that the work will be taken up in the autumn with the same enthusiasm that has characterized the club throughout its brief life.

"The Vital Question," 3d Edition, containing over 250 recipes for the preparation of natural foods, using Shredded Wheat Biscuit as a basis, a treatise on the food subject, menus, a table of food values, the law of nourishment, with "Our Navy" Supplement, containing forty prints of photographs from official negatives of War Ships, all beautifully bound and tied with silk cord, mailed postpaid to any address received by the New Era Cooking School, Worcester, Mass.

Woman's present opportunity is three-fold, in the home, in the school, in the club. Never has woman's opportunity as an educator in the home been so large as at present, for never have there been so many educated mothers.—Mary M. Abbott, Waterbury, Conn.

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CLUB NOTES.

THE SIGOURNEAN CLUB of Olathe, Kan., has closed one of the most prosperous years in its history. At the first meeting last fall, ways and means for advancing the usefulness of the club were discussed and an increase of membership was suggested. The view taken by the president, Mrs. Clara A. Marley, was that a club which never adds new spirit and new blood to its forces, exhausts itself. The proposed enlargement carried and the club now has a membership of fifty. The club has studied Egyptian history under the leadership of Mrs. McGarrah. Much interest was manifested in the late archaeological discoveries, which reveal civilization many thousand years earlier than the Egyptian. Mrs. Marley led the class in its study of schools of modern fiction. There were excellent papers during the year on philanthropy, hygienic condition of schoolhouses in rural districts, the American apprenticeship system and the use and abuse of food. Expressions favoring reforms in all these avenues of human needs showed the wide-awake spirit of the members. The club closed its season with a patriotic and enthusiastic entertainment in honor of its eighth anniversary.

THE HISTORY CLUB of Kansas City held its last meeting with Mrs. J. S. Stockton, Oakland avenue. The time was devoted to left over papers and discussions accruing from crowded programs during the winter. The year's course embraced the history, literature and art of Germany from the storm and stress period to the present time—a study which was made particularly attractive by Mrs. Porter Sherman, one of the club members who had spent seven years in Germany. Her interesting talks were supplemented by a large collection of photographs and art treasures, highly appreciated by the club. Former active members of the History Club who have found it inconvenient to continue their studies were elected honorary members at the last meeting. The new course will be devoted to Italy, its history, art and literature. The club is a member of the Kansas City, Kan., Federation and also of the Kansas Social Science Federation. Newly elected officers are: President, Mrs. W. S. Hannah; vice-president, Miss Cora Alden; secretary, Mrs. Carroll; treasurer, Mrs. A. R. Ford; program committee, Mrs. J. S. Stockton, Mrs. Porter Sherman, Mrs. D. W. Troup.

THE WOMAN'S CLUB of Green Bay, Wisconsin, has during the past season accomplished satisfactory and profitable work. A movement inaugurated last November to send out traveling libraries to the outlying towns has proved most successful. Nine libraries in all have been set in operation; in many instances with marked and encouraging results. Another line of work undertaken during the year just closed which has proved of decided benefit is that carried on by the educational committee. In visiting the schools and instituting needed reforms and in providing for children too poor otherwise to enter school they have done philanthropic work. The committee on schoolroom decoration, only recently organized, is composed of efficient and interested workers and gives promise of accomplishing good results another year.

The club has five departments: Science and art, literature, history, home and education, philanthropy and reform. Each is in charge of a committee consisting of five members. In addition there is a social committee of twelve members. The Green Bay Woman's Club has a membership of 100. Mrs. Ella Hoes Neville, whose inspiring influence and fine executive ability have done much to forward the best interests of the club, has held the presidency for two years.

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NOTES.

THE WOMAN'S CLUB of Nebraska City (Neb.), now in its third year of existence, is a flourishing society of thirty-six members. Representative women, all of them, though not nearly all of the representative women, who, having found that club work helps in home building and general development of character, are enthused with a quiet interest for its success that promises well for the future permanence and prosperity of the organization. The officers are Mrs. Ella Larsh, president; Mrs. Ellen Ware, first vice-president; Mrs. Marie L. Burget, second vice-president; Mrs. E. Morgan, secretary; Mrs. Rachael Watson, treasurer; Mrs. E. Shuman, corresponding secretary. Four active departments sub-divide the general work of the club as follows: Household Economics, Mrs. Ella Dittmar, leader; Current Events, Mrs. Bertha Zook, leader; Department of Art, Miss Hershey, leader; Parliamentary Practice, Mrs. E. Shuman, leader. During this year several programs for the entertainment of the general club have been presented. They were given by the art class by means of a loan held in the new public library building, wherein a beautiful display of curious bric-a-brac, rare paintings, antique and modern, were exhibited. It continued for several days, and was a signal success, artistically and socially, netting the department a neat sum as well. The department of household economics followed in due time with a candy demonstration, after which the fruits of their labors were served to the audience by the class, clad in dainty cooking garb.

In Florida there are a number of unions corresponding with City Federations. These are called town improvement associations, and in nearly every case they have been formed by Northern women who have been spending the winter in the South. The work of these clubs is very seldom literary, of course, and is usually confined wholly to street and cemetery and library and drinking fountain improvement. To raise funds to work the desired reforms along school or city hall bell or paving lines, teas and entertainments are held, rather than bazaars, to raise the money with which to carry on the work. The Southern reputation for hospitality among its women is kept up in the form which their entertainments take. These are seldom sales or fairs, and never "sociables;" they are afternoon teas or receptions from which the admittance money is the only resource derived. Invitations are seldom issued to these, and yet the events are made entirely social affairs, and the attendance is deftly regulated so that the occasions are always pleasant. Florida has no less than seven of these associations.

THE MOSAIC CLUB of Jackson, Mich., is a study club with a membership of forty, and a waiting list who faithfully live up to the clause of the constitution, which provides "that only those shall be eligible to membership who desire to study, and who, without criticism upon the efforts of others, will endeavor to further the aims for which the club was organized." The result is a well-balanced club, both in its literary and social features.

The proper building and use of club houses will do more than anything else to tone down the rabid disease of "papers" which is now epidemic among the women's clubs.

The new woman must have a new voice, if she would free her club from one of its present serious limitations.—Mary Adams Currier.

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THE CLUB WOMAN.

Editor of The Club Woman:—

Just now the September Club Woman brings your answer to questions relating to the dress of women at the Denver Biennial. Sensible and wise as your words appear, there is a phase of the subject which they leave untouched; at least, if we can credit the statements of many clear-headed women who are neither extremists, nor of those who "see few if any pretty pretty gowns at home." Neither are these reporters women who believe that any "should make frumps of themselves."

On the contrary, none who attended the Denver meetings were more progressive, liberal, kind and level-headed than those whose observations and testimony incline me to these words. Nevertheless, my informants deplored, not the artistic, charming and picturesque costumes displayed; not the costly elegance of attire or the good gowns of the wealthy. By no means; but they did criticise the needless parade of diamonds, and the show of "uncovered busts," as altogether unbecoming in those aspiring to leadership.

No glamor of wealth or fashion can convince a great multitude of intelligent and lovable club women that low-necked gowns are suitable for a public platform. Neither could these noblest of the sex be induced to wear a costume in a promiscuous assembly in which they would blush to be seen by gentlemen callers in the forenoon at home.

The day has long passed, dear Madam Editor, when any intelligent club woman needs reminding "that clothes do not make the woman." Alas, that all have not so well learned the "eternal fitness of things" as that they could never be guilty of choosing attire open to the criticism of being too suggestive of indelicacy to be "pure womanly."

Is it not quite time that club women gain so high an attitude of thinking that no aspiring club leader will pose in low-necked gowns for public prints, or be seen on public platforms "nude as to her shoulders"? While club women are ostracising other barbarisms of conduct, etc., why not this one of immodest apparel?

No, dear Madam Editor, it was not the elegance, nor the art, nor the "Frenchiness" of the gowns at Denver that offended, but the vulgarity of unnecessary display, of décolleté fashions worn by white-haired women, supposed intellectual leaders, and those whom the average woman has long worshiped afar, that produced a sense of keen disappointment.

We have no quarrel with wealth, or even with la mode, while it respects the proprieties of life; but hundreds, even thousands, of capable, conscientious, home-loving club women long for the banishment of everything in woman that savors of indelicacy or lack of real nobility and refinement.

This is no trifling concern to the women who are striving with tears and prayers and earnest counsel to train their sons to reverence womanhood, and grow into pure and noble manhood. If acknowledged leaders copy the demi monde, of what avails a mother's words? Ah! friends, "evil is wrought by want of thought" as truly sometimes as by an evil purpose.

"The moral effect of pretty gowns" is unquestionable. Far be it from me to underestimate it. But do we not all agree that a display and richness quite permissible among the "400 of one's set" in New York, Chicago or Boston, in honor of some "swell" occasion, might be altogether out of taste in the festivities of a convention assembled for the transaction of intellectual business? Some day all women will have outgrown the unwisdom of spending strength and substance for that which satisfies not, or brings dismay to others.—I. T. J., Lansing, Mich.

Read carefully the lecturers' cards on the page next the last.

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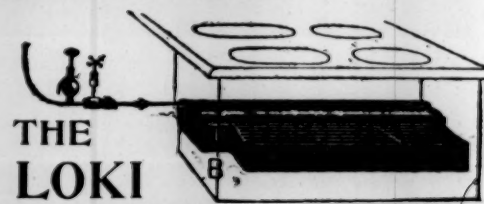
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NOTES.

The Chicago Woman's Club is about moving into new rooms in the Fine Arts Building. The Inter-Ocean says: "There certainly will be no finer woman's club rooms in Chicago when they are complete, and the outlook is commanding. The entire front of the ninth floor is devoted to the reception rooms and library, all of which face the lake, with innumerable large plate windows. Back of these, and forming an L of the suite, are the spacious tea rooms, with cloak rooms, kitchen, butler's pantries, and toilet rooms adjoining. The large reception rooms, which have two entrances, will also serve as class rooms, and can be made spacious or cozy by the opening or closing of immense French doors, which run the entire width of the apartments.

"Dark oak is the finish employed, which gives an English appearance to the interior. The tinting of the walls has not been started yet, but will be in soft tones, to harmonize with the oak. Rugs and polished floors will probably have the preference of carpets, since they add the touch of elegance de bohème that is desired. The large hallway will be utilized as an office and visitors' ante-room.

"On the floor above will be the assembly hall, with a seating capacity of about 500, which will be utilized for larger meets than the ordinary club routine demands. Chamber music hall, on the street floor, will also be at the disposal of the club, and has a seating capacity large enough to accommodate the State Convention in October. Had the Board known that this hall would be completed in time for the assembly of the Illinois Federation they would have hesitated about making a decision in favor of Central Music Hall, which is somewhat remote from the club centers. As the Woman's Club will keep open house during convention week, it is now realized that so early a selection was a mistake."

She was dressed smartly, and when she met a small, bare-legged urchin carrying a bird's nest with eggs in it, she did not hesitate to stop him.

"You are a wicked boy," she said. "How could you rob that nest? No doubt the poor mother is now grieving for the loss of her eggs."

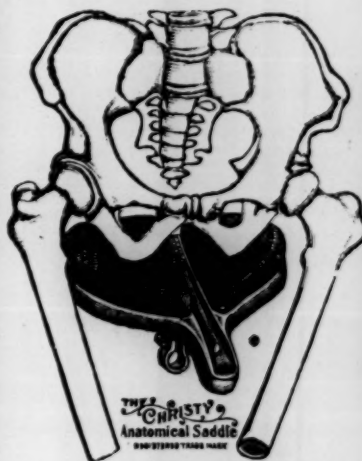
"Oh, she don't care," said the boy, edging away; "she's on your hat!"—Cape Ann Advertiser.

"Do say," writes Mrs. Etta H. Osgood, "this about clothes: Neither prettiness and expense, nor dowdiness and cheapness are synonymous. I happen to know that the sweet white muslin of Mrs. Henrotin's which we all admired so much at Denver was made by a dressmaker at the home, and a low-priced one, too. Any one with as much taste and a little patience might have had as pretty a gown. I was so glad to read all you said in the 'Mellowing of Occasion' to the people who fuss about good clothes."

With the September number The Club Woman celebrates its first anniversary, and I send greeting and congratulations for the splendid work you have done in the year just closed, as evidenced in the file of twelve numbers of The Club Woman. With best wishes for its future prosperity and many returns of its anniversary month, I am, sincerely yours, Etta H. Glidden, Charlestown, Mass.

No club president can afford to be without The Woman's Manual. We send it postpaid for 75 cents.

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Oh, our club is the gem of the city,
The home of intelligence free,
The shrine of our poesy and ditty,
Our hearts offer homage to thee;
Thy mandates make ladies assemble
When Friday's hour strikes the chime,
Thy lessons make ignorance tremble,
When we study well from time to time.

Chorus:

Three cheers for our colors pink and green,
With them we're not ashamed to be seen,
Oh, onward and upward forever,
Three cheers for our colors pink and green!

When error waged its wide desolation
And threatened the mind to deform,
The ark then of culture's salvation,
The club rode safely through the storm;
With her garlands of vict'ry around her,
And her ladies so earnest and true,
With her colors proudly floating upon her
We pledge her our love—say, will you?

Chorus:

Three cheers, etc.

The colors, the colors bring hither,
And pin upon each one's true breast;
May the garlands we've won never wither,
Nor our fervor lose none of its zest!
May the ladies united ne'er sever,
But all to their colors prove true!
The fellowship of intellects forever,
Three cheers we shout—say, will you?

Chorus:

Three cheers, etc.

Vermont is one of the most beautiful states in the Union. Its beauties have not been so far heralded as those of New Hampshire, but taken as a whole it is more picturesque and has many localities which should be known to the traveler. The line of the Central Vermont Railroad, which crosses the State from White River Junction to St. Albans and the Canada Line penetrates the most beautiful region in the Green Mountain State. It is an old settled country, the towns are embowered in foliage and the farms are well cultivated. Hill and dale and mountain alternate with each other in charming variety and the clear flowing streams add loveliness to the constant succession of pictures. Now is a good time to take a trip through Vermont, while the maples are flaming with crimson and gold. The Boston office of the Central Vt. R. R. is at 194 Washington street.

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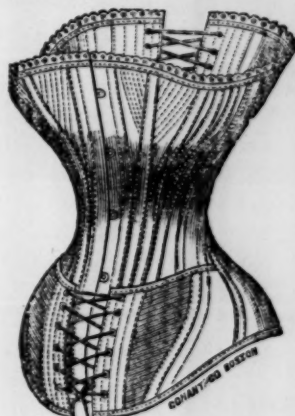
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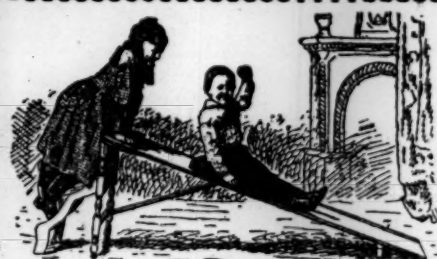
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